

# STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 17, 2013

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## Awards scheme

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## Memory Lane

Soldier who paused trench warfare for a football game

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## Ton-up team

Another win as Saxons get their 100th try

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## Anguish as tree memorial is stolen



Michelle Lockley

A TREE planted in memory of a mother of two who died of cancer has been stolen, bringing new heartbreak to her family.

The oak was planted for 42-year-old Michelle Lockley in Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge. She enjoyed going there with her sons, Kyle, now 21, and Rhys, 19.

Mrs Lockley, of Stamford Road, Brierley Hill, died in Mary Stevens Hospice in November 2011.

Her aunt Sharon Gilson-Pinches, of Wellington, Telford, said: "I can't understand the mentality of anyone who could do this. The plaque stated that the tree was in loving memory of a woman who only passed away 12 months ago."

Mrs Lockley was catering manager at Swindon Golf Club, near Dudley, when she was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2007. She worked for a time at Iceland in Stourbridge and she was also involved with Stourbridge Rugby Club and Enville Cricket Club.

## Lidl store to create jobs

BUDGET supermarket chain Lidl has unveiled plans to open a store on the Duckworth Trading Estate, in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford. The move will create 40 new jobs.

It comes after Morrisons launched its own redevelopment plans for a replacement store just yards along the same road.

Store bosses have announced a consultation event on Wednesday to showcase the scheme.

# MP WANTS TALKS AT OFFICE CLOSURE FIRM

by Andrew Turton

**AN MP is demanding talks with npower bosses in the wake of the energy giant announcing it is to close its offices in Kingswinford.**

The High Street base, which employs 284 people, will close within a year following a "strategic review" of the firm's sites.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly says he wants to discuss the

reasons behind the closure and he pledged his support to staff who may be affected.

Mr Kelly's office has contacted npower bosses to arrange a meeting by next Friday.

His constituency representative, Kingswinford Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "We have left space in the diary and are hopeful of getting a date and time fixed for a meeting."

He added: "It is very disappointing to hear, not only for the hundreds of people who work there but also the businesses who would feel the knock-on effect."

No firm date has yet been given for the closure but an npower spokesman said it would be within the year.

### Decision

The spokesman would not say if jobs were at risk as part of the review being carried out with parent company RWE.

But staff said they were warned by bosses there could be redundancies and that some employees would be moved to the firm's Worcester base.

Mr Kelly said: "While I don't expect to reverse the decision, I want to speak to them about why they have made the decision and seek what help I can for all affected employees."

Union officials have also vowed to talk to company bosses.

● Positive - Page 4

## Ringin' in a new era for church bells



Bell ringers at Christ Church, Lye, at the re-dedication service to mark the restoration of the church's bells

HISTORIC bells rang out at a Stourbridge church as more than 150 people turned out to herald the completion of a £40,000 restoration project.

They were at Christ Church, Lye, for a re-dedication service to mark the return of the church bells.

Archdeacon of Dudley, the Venerable Fred Trethewey, joined the Reverend Simon Falshaw to lead Sunday's service.

The congregation launched a fundraising drive to restore bells at the

High Street church and they were removed from the tower for the first time in 120 years. After a two-year project to restore them, new bell-ringers, including children, are getting expert tuition.

### Donations

Spokesman Bob Field, said: "It was a really good turnout and this is the official recognition that the bells are back."

Wear and tear took its toll on the ornate bells and they were only rung occasionally but committee members

sourced donations including £15,000 from the Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust, £5,000 from Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association and £5,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Replacement pieces had to be specially designed by an expert and joists dating back to 1885 had to be replaced.

The bells were made in Belgium by Severin Van Aerschoot.

Varying in size from 77lb to 396lb, they are partly made from copper and tin.

## Big names in double blow for shoppers

SHOPPERS at the Merry Hill Centre suffered a double blow as two big name shops went into administration.

HMV went into administration this week, putting thousands of jobs across the country at risk.

It came days after Jessops closed. The camera chain was put into administration and an announcement later said that all the firm's stores were closing.

Both chains blamed internet shopping for their demise.

HMV continues to trade while a buyer is sought. But customers have been angered by the announcement that they could not use their gift vouchers.

Ryan Guest, a 20-year-old student of Netherton, has a £20 card from Christmas, and another from his birthday in June, worth £10, which he was planning to spend in the coming days.

He said: "It's like the cards have been stolen from me. As a student, £20 is a lot of money to me. It's really bad that another shop that I used regularly is in trouble."

More than 4,350 jobs at HMV are at risk after bosses at the 92-year-old business appointed administrators from Deloitte.

Big names including Comet, JJB Sports, Game, Peacocks and Blacks Leisure have all fallen victim to the tough times on the High Street.

## Residents set for poll

RESIDENTS are preparing to go to the polls for a council by-election in Stourbridge.

The election will take place in the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward of Dudley Council following the death of long-standing councillor Malcolm Knowles in October last year.

The leading political parties have nominated their candidates for the election which is due to take place on January 31.

● Full story - Page 2

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# Man jailed for breach of sentence

A MAN stole from a Merry Hill store just nine days after being given a 12-month suspended sentence for burgling his mother's house, a court heard.

Scott Westwood, of Stourbridge Road, Dudley, had 40 previous convictions for theft and dishonesty, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week.

Recorder Richard Bond said the

26-year-old had been lucky to avoid an immediate custodial sentence for burgling his mother's home of £1,060 worth of jewellery, electrical goods and change last November.

Alka Brigue, prosecuting, told the court that nine days after being sentenced Westwood went into Clas Ohlson in Brierley Hill's Merry Hill centre and stole nine ink cartridges worth £201.93. He was arrested on

December 3, and signed an exclusion zone notice not to go back to the shop. Westwood told police he stole because he had no money and nowhere to live, but he tested positive for class A drugs, the court heard.

Gerry Bermingham, defending, said his client had shown during his time on remand in prison that he could get clean from drugs, and he

had completed a carpentry course.

For breaching his suspended sentence, which Westwood admitted, he was ordered to serve 12 months in prison. For the theft from Clas Ohlson, which he also admitted, Westwood was told he would serve one month consecutively.

Mr Bond said he would serve half that time and then be released on licence.

# Chance to shape policy on housing

PEOPLE can have their say on housing services in the Dudley borough and help shape future developments.

The council wants views on a new draft housing strategy which has been published as part of a consultation.

It sets out how the council aims to meet the housing needs of people living in the borough.

The authority says some of the key challenges include a growing population of older people and a high demand for affordable housing. It also wants to make homes more energy-efficient to help reduce fuel bills.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for housing, said: "We are seeking views on the latest draft housing strategy which sets out what we think are the key challenges over the next few years and what we are planning to do. "Affordability is a big issue for many people and demand for affordable social housing far outstrips what we have available."

"For this reason we will be looking at ways to build more affordable housing."

A questionnaire are available on the council's Community Engagement Database which can be found at [www.dudley.gov.uk/community/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/community/)

# Line-up of candidates for by-election finalised

THE list of candidates for a council by-election in Stourbridge on January 31 has been finalised.

The election will be in the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward of Dudley Council following the death of long-standing councillor Malcolm Knowles in October last year.

Representing Labour will be Barbara Deely. The Conservative candidate will be Matt Rogers, and standing for the Liberal Democrats will be Christopher Bramall.

Barbara Deely will represent UKIP. Ben Sweeney is standing for the Green Party, Ken Griffiths is the BNP candidate, and Russell Eden will stand as an Independent.

Voters in the ward have been receiving polling cards this week, informing them of polling station locations.

The polls will open at 7am and close at 10pm. If anyone is unable to get to a polling station on January 31 they can apply to vote by proxy.

Deadline for receipt of proxy appointments is 5pm on January 23.

## Registered

John Polychronakis, chief executive of Dudley Council and elections returning officer, said: "I would urge people to make sure they are registered to vote if they want to have a say on deciding the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward by-election."

Councillor Knowles died following a short illness aged 79.

The father-of-three, who lived in Oldswinford, had served on the council for more than 20 years.

He had led Dudley Council's regeneration schemes between 2006 and 2009 after serving as mayor in 2004-05.

Residents can get an application for a proxy vote by contacting the local electoral registration office on 01384 814740. People can also ring that number if they have not received a poll card.



Malcolm Knowles

## Plan for homes to go ahead

REVISED plans to convert the boiler house at a former hospital into apartments have been agreed.

Residents feared the plans could cause more traffic on a private road.

But Dudley Council's planning committee approved the plans for the old Wordsley Hospital.

Several other former hospital buildings have been converted as part of plans to create a housing estate.

Developer Shropshire Homes had been granted permission to create 11 flats in the building which would have meant converting the basement, ground and first floors. But the firm amended the proposals as it no longer wished to pursue the basement changes.

## Show blooms for charity



Back, left, Chris Porter, Karen Whittingham, Sandra Pope and Maria Lodge with, front left, Liz Sparke, Philippa Jones and Kaye Senior from Stourbridge Theatre Company

A PRODUCTION of Calendar Girls by the Stourbridge Theatre Company raised £8,500 for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

The work of the original Calendar Girls is dedicated to the memory of John Baker who died from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1998 aged 54.

In 1999, Angela Baker and her friends from Yorkshire's Rylstone and District WI

decided to pose for a nude fundraising calendar, and created a sensation.

Phillippa Jones, regional manager for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, said: "It is fantastic to see the fundraising legacy of the Calendar Girls live on through the work of amateur theatre companies such as Stourbridge Theatre Company."

Performances took place at Stourbridge Town Hall in November.

## Times are tough for moving up

HOMEOWNERS trying for a second step on the property ladder bear the brunt of tough housing market conditions, a study says.

Trading up last year cost about 4.6 times annual average earnings. A decade ago it was 2.9 times, the Lloyds TSB's review said.

The West and East Midlands are most affordable, with ratios of 4.0, with the South East least affordable, with a ratio of 6.3.

Affordability ratios for second steppers to trade up are calculated using the average price of a typical second stepper home minus the second stepper's current equity position, as a ratio of average earnings.

Many second steppers bought at the top of the market.

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## Takeaway boss fined for filthy kitchen

A TAKEAWAY boss has been fined thousands of pounds after inspectors found dirty work surfaces, broken fridges and dog food stored alongside ingredients on the menu.

Mohammed Hassani, the owner of The Godfather pizzeria, Cooper Avenue, Brierley Hill, admitted 11 food hygiene charges and another five health and safety offences relating to maintaining gas appliances.

Richard Essex, prosecuting, told Dudley magistrates that staff were not trained properly in food hygiene.

He said inspectors found dirty surfaces and cooking equipment, and mould around the kitchen area during their visit in December 2011.

Improvement had been noticed in more recent inspections, he added.

Ali Tabari, defending, said Hassani was battling debt and an uncooperative landlord, but the food hygiene problems had been rectified.

He said Hassani would struggle to pay the £3,200 the court fined him along with the £4,134 in prosecution costs.

He added: "He has not been any burden on the state since he arrived from Iran in 1999, but if the fine is more than £4,000, that is what could happen."

## Future of school is on agenda

A MEETING was being held this week between Dudley education chiefs and government officials to decide how to reverse the fortunes of a troubled school.

Priory Primary School is under scrutiny after failing to meet expected standards in teaching and pupils' achievement during a three-year period.

This week, the council's education chief Councillor Tim Crumpton was due to meet the office of the Secretary of State for Education to see what further options there may be to improve school.

The school was graded as "inadequate" and was placed into special measures following an Ofsted report last July.

## Chance to speak out on the important issues

HERE'S your chance to speak out about the important issues that affect your life – from bins and buses to policing and pensions.

All this week the Express & Star is asking readers to take part in the Your Say survey, the biggest ever independent snapshot of life in the West Midlands and Staffordshire. And it is not too late to take part.

All 50 questions will be reprinted in Saturday's Express & Star – and you can also take part at a click of a button by logging onto [www.expressandstar.com/survey](http://www.expressandstar.com/survey)

The Express & Star is asking you for your views on everything from how cuts have affected services in your area to where you



choose to do your shopping or enjoy a pint down the pub.

It wants to hear from as many readers as possible so that it can paint an accurate picture of you, your views and your concerns as we enter 2013. The consultation will build on the success of last year's pioneering Express & Star Black Country Census,

which gave a valuable insight into the identity of the region, past and present, and attracted around 2,000 responses.

Split into five sections, the Your Say survey concentrates on Your Services, Your Towns, Your Transport, Your Safety and Your Well-Being.

Express & Star editor Adrian Faber said: "We are hoping to create a valuable snapshot of life in this region as we enter 2013. We hope the findings of the survey will provide an insight into the priorities and concerns of our readers, something that service providers like councils and the police will take notice of."

"An essential role of the Express & Star is

to give readers a voice and we want that voice to be as powerful as possible."

The Your Say survey has been welcomed by those who help to make the decisions that affect our region.

Ian Austin, Labour MP for Dudley North, said: "This is a brilliant initiative for the Express & Star and I have no doubt that councillors, MPs and the people running public services will be watching the results very carefully."

"This is exactly the sort of thing a community newspaper should be doing – listening to local people and highlighting their opinions on the things they care about."

# Heritage charity on board with planned £5m museum

**A NEW £5 million museum promoting Stourbridge's glass industry will be run by a leading heritage charity under a deal with developers.**

Plans to transform the old Stuart Crystal glassworks, also known as the White House Glass Cone, into a new attraction are under way with a bid for European funding to kickstart the project.

Conservation charity the British Glass Foundation would eventually take over the running of the museum in Wordsley, from site owner Complex Developments Ltd.

Under the proposals, the ownership of Kingswinford's Broadfield House Glass Museum would be transferred from Dudley Council to the charity as part of the deal.

A council report states that Broadfield House would then be sold off by the British Glass Foundation to fund its takeover of the new museum.

### Purchase

Dudley Council's director of the urban environment, John Millar, writing in the report said: "If successful the plan would be for Complex Developments Ltd to sell the new museum to the British Glass Foundation."

"The council's only obligation would be to transfer Broadfield House to the BGF, and allow them to dispose of the asset in order that the receipt could be used to fund the purchase of the new museum."

Mr Millar added: "There is an obligation on the British Glass Foundation to produce a robust business plan outlining how they would operate a new museum on the White House Glass Cone site and there could be a request for some council support in the initial period of its operation."

Complex Developments director Ian Harrabin said the charity was "part of the funding process" as they look to secure £2 million from the European Regional Development Fund for the project.

Further grants are also being applied for from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Enterprise scheme.

Campaigners fought to keep Broadfield House open three years ago after it was threatened with the axe under cost-cutting proposals by the council.

## Young designers get ahead

SECOND year graphics students at Halesowen College have been working on a fantasy computer illustration project designing motorbike helmets.

The group visited StreetBike in Mucklow Hill where marketing expert Carl Dodds explained the challenge and then with artist Dean Bromley, judged the efforts of the young designers.

The winner was Richard Hawkins, aged 18, a former pupil of Thorns School and Community College.

## Portillo puts cone in TV spotlight



Michael Portillo at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, and meeting artist Sarah Jones, inset

WORDSLEY'S Red House Glass Cone was in the TV spotlight when it was featured on Great British Railway Journeys, hosted by former Tory cabinet minister Michael Portillo.

Mr Portillo took viewers on a journey using a Victorian guidebook to see how destinations, including Stourbridge, had changed over the years.

Last week Mr Portillo took the Dudley to Bridgnorth route that was popular in Victorian times.

He explored the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley during his journey.

At the cone in he learned about the area's glass-making heritage, the working conditions there, the factories in the area and how glass is made now.

The Wordsley cone is one of only four ones remaining in the UK and is the best preserved.

It is thought to date from around 1790.

Michael Portillo's visit was filmed last September.



## NEWS in brief

### Invitation to go on a tour of hall

COUPLES planning to tie the knot can take a tour of Himley Hall, near Dudley, at an open day to see if it would be their ideal wedding venue.

The picturesque hall, run by Dudley Council, is holding its open day on January 20, from 11am-4pm.

Himley Hall has two rooms licensed for civil ceremonies – the Pink Room, once the library of the Earls of Dudley, and the Green Room, originally the formal dining room.

### Old club is put at risk by thieves

A FORMER social club-faces being pulled down after the theft of lead resulted in severe rain damage.

The old Ukrainian Club, Sion Hill, Kidderminster, was to be converted into two flats and a pair of houses. Plans were approved by Wyre Forest District Council last year.

However, the applicant, Mr Tomkins, now wants to knock down the building. Wyre Forest District Council will decide in the coming months.

### Ukip aiming for more members

DUDLEY and Halesowen Ukip held its annual meeting at the Courthouse pub in Dudley.

A new team of post holders was selected, with Bill Etheridge becoming chairman, Phil Rowe secretary, Dean Perks social secretary, Mike Rumble in charge of recruitment, and Sue Rowe as treasurer. Mr Etheridge said the branch wanted an increased membership.

### Success delights firm of solicitors

A FIRM of solicitors with an office in Stourbridge hit a record turnover of £5.5 million last year.

Quality Solicitors Talbots, which has offices in Wolverhampton, Dudley, Codsall, Kidderminster as well as Stourbridge, saw an 8.3 per cent growth in revenue in 2012.

Martyn Morgan, the firm's senior partner, said: "We are delighted with this performance."

### Beer store planned

STOURBRIDGE Institute Social Club has applied to Dudley Council for planning permission to build a beer store at the front of the building in Market Street.

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## NEWS

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



"FASTER, higher, stronger" is the motto of the Olympic Games. It may need rewriting following a new debate about making darts an Olympic sport by 2020. Sir Clive Woodward, Team GB's director of sport, tweeted a few days ago: "Darts definitely an Olympic sport" So that's faster, higher, stronger - and fatter.

TERMS to watch out for in 2013. "Cyber hygiene" is the responsible use of computers by individuals, companies, state departments and the military to prevent us from being overwhelmed by enemy powers.

IN TIME, age catches up with even the coolest vocal chords. According to one gushing guru, the first David Bowie single for a decade, *Where Are We Now?* has "echoes of classic Bowie". It also has echoes of Clive Dunn warbling his way through *Granada*.

NAMED and shamed in a survey for its terrible customer relations, one high-street bank puts up a spokeswoman who trills blithely: "Improving the service we provide our customers remains our top priority." This is bunkum rolled in claptrap and served with a massive side order of whoppers, and the sheer brass-necked gall is breathtaking. As we all know full well, the top priority of any bank, to the exclusion of almost anything else, is making money. In pursuit of that aim, customers will be deceived in their millions and staff will be sacked in their thousands. I am reminded of the cartoon about a company which once boasted: "Our members of staff are our most precious asset" but then conducted an audit and repositioned the staff just below the paperclips.

OUR changing language. David Cameron declares that the Coalition has "a full tank of gas". This is England, not New England. We don't run cars on gas. Whatever happened to petrol?

I REFERRED recently to us "sad old souls" who enjoy spotting the errors in period dramas. A soul-mate writes to tell me his finest hour came in *Heartbeat*, set at the time of the Torrey Canyon oil-spill disaster. The oil tanker ran aground in March 1967 but a car tax disc in the same episode was dated December 1969. Double Ovals all round.

WE are told that Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans, is front-runner to become Britain's first gay bishop. He fits the latest criteria announced by the Church because he is in a civil partnership with another priest but insists the relationship is celibate. If this is the truth (and who can doubt the word of a man of God?) then Jeffrey John and his partner are not gay in any meaningful sense. They are merely long-term friends living together. And if they are allowed the tax breaks and inheritance rights that go with civil partnership, then why are other long-term friends who live together denied the right to have civil partnerships?

"THANKS to the internet it is now possible to be extremely well informed and completely wrong at the same time." Emailer's comment to a motoring DIY website.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Business leaders staying positive

LLOYDS Banking Group, Virgin Media, online credit card firm Egg and now npower - commerce in the Dudley borough was dealt another blow with news that npower will close its base in Kingswinford.

The company's move comes almost a year after Lloyds and Virgin Media moved all 559 staff from Dudley's Waterfront. Then West Bromwich Building Society ditched plans to move its HQ to the

same business centre. But business and community leaders refuse to be downbeat.

Paul Bennett, president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "There is success in the Dudley borough, look at retail - we have seen a 15-unit net gain in occupation of units over the past four months."

"The economy is relatively flat but here we are seeing companies

invest in staff, and technology too. But we need to support them."

He said one way was to give loans to firms which had struggled when approaching the banks.

The Dudley Business Loan Fund backed by Dudley Council was set up last March and has seen £307,000 given to 13 businesses in the borough, safeguarding 245 jobs.

Meanwhile, at CMC Partnership, a Stourbridge firm which provides

management consultancy services to corporate clients, director Graeme Thom said: "It's not all doom and gloom."

"We have seen a number of companies go by the wayside, but there are many firms which are quietly getting on and doing very well."

"The key is for companies to be critical of their cash flows, keep on top of debtors."

# Talks urged over fear of losing beat bobbies

**POLICE Federation leaders are demanding talks with their police and crime commissioner over fears of losing police officers from the streets.**

Up to 200 officers and 450 civilian staff are to leave the West Mercia and Warwickshire police forces by 2016. The job losses will be shared between the two forces, which have entered into an alliance to save £31 million because of government cutbacks. Newly-elected West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore wants people to give their views on the plans. They are outlined in the draft Police and Crime Plan, which sets out policing priorities for the next four years.

West Mercia Police Federation chairman Ken Mackall says they estimate that 140 officers will be lost from the streets in the West Mercia force area, which includes the Wyre Forest district and Hagley.

"We will be asking for talks with Mr Longmore once a decision on the level of council tax precept has been made, to discuss the impact on officer numbers over the next four years."

**Protect**  
"The public tell us they want to see police on the beat, but this is becoming harder to achieve."

Mr Longmore said: "I will endeavour to protect police officers and police community support officers from redundancy."

"While I do expect staffing reductions over the next three to four years, the alliance will allow these reductions to be kept to a minimum."

People can write to Mr Longmore at OPCC West Mercia, PO Box 487, Shrewsbury, SY2 6WB or email opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk. The deadline for comments is January 28.

## Charity has hope in store



Assistant manager James Buckley and manager Vanessa White at the Scope shop

CHARITIES hoping to benefit from a January boost are appealing for more volunteers and donations.

Among those to have sent out a plea for support is the Scope shop in Stourbridge.

The charity, which works with disabled people and their families, is appealing for more stock to sell in their stores and also for volunteers to help at its branch in Market Street.

Store manager Vanessa White said:

"We're desperate for more stock, particularly ladieswear and menswear. We'd also like any unwanted Christmas gifts that people might want to give away."

The charity's area manager Olive Lowe said: "The shortage is all year round but I think especially since we were closed over Christmas and New Year and people have been so busy."

Anybody interested could visit [www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk) or call 01384 379857.

## Revamp plan gets lottery backing

A £1.15million project to restore a Grade II listed building housing two chapels has moved a step closer after lottery bosses awarded funding for detailed designs to be drawn up.

The plans to open the Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapels, which have not been used since 1993, have been backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust which is working to refurbish the site has been given £42,300 to work on a full grant application of just under £850,000 at a later date.

The project aims to repair the building in Cemetery Road, Lye, which houses identical Anglican and Non-conformist chapels - and bring it back into community and commercial use.

Experts say it is a rare example of two chapels within a single building.

The site which is owned by Dudley Council was at risk due to lack of use when volunteers at the Historic Buildings Trust stepped in to save it.

Now members are working towards taking full ownership of the building under an arrangement asset transfer, supported by the council.

## Hospital governors are sought

DUDLEY'S hospital trust is on the look-out for governors to represent patients.

There are vacancies in the public constituencies of Central Dudley and the rest of the West Midlands.

Those elected will sit on the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's council of governors, which oversees health care.

Chairman John Edwards said: "Governors provide a vital link between the hospitals and the community. Standing for election is a great opportunity for patients, their partners and carers to influence the way healthcare is provided. Governors play an important part in the governance of the Trust."

Call Helen Board on 01384 321124 or email [foundationmembers@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:foundationmembers@dgh.nhs.uk)

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## Man, 34, in false claim for benefits

A MAN has been ordered to do 180 hours' unpaid work after he claimed more than £1,700 in housing benefits for a property in which he never lived.

Martin Upton, 34, cashed four cheques from Dudley Council after claiming he was moving into a house in Ridge Grove, Stourbridge.

But he was living in Second Avenue, Wolverhampton, and was also claiming housing benefit from Wolverhampton City Council.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, Upton was sentenced to carry out the work and return £1,700.80 to Dudley Council. He pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to four counts of fraudulently obtaining benefits.

David Payne, prosecuting, said Upton received four cheques for the housing benefit from Dudley Council in 2010. They were all paid into a new account, Mr Payne said. "Dudley Council had suspicions. It was established with the landlord that...the rental agreement never commenced."

Upton was also ordered to pay £1,140 costs.

## MP calling to musicians

A MIDLAND MP is calling for musicians to enter a competition at the House of Commons.

Wyre Forest MP Mark Garner, MP and two other judges will nominate their favourites from each of five categories, after which a panel of music industry experts will pick the finalists. A live battle of the bands will take place on the balcony of the House of Commons on June 26.

The categories are solo artist, band, under-19 solo artist, under-19 band, and best small live music venue.

Deadline for applications is March 1. Mr Garner said: "It's an opportunity for aspiring artists of any to find a way into the industry."

## Change for store

A FORMER clothing store in Dudley high street is to be reopened as a bookmakers.

The Millets store near the junction with Wolverhampton Street and Union Street has stood closed for more than two years. High street bookmaker BetFred will take over the premises.

# Call for ex-Army colleagues to reunite



History - Bob Clarke, who is on the front row, far left, is appealing for former colleagues to come forward

AN Army veteran who travelled the world and then helped recruit young people into the forces, is calling on his former colleagues to get in touch.

Bob Clarke, who served in the Royal Corps of Signals for more than 22 years, is hoping to hold a reunion with former recruitment office workers from the 1970s and early 1980s.

He worked in offices in Birmingham, West Bromwich, Dudley and Wolverhampton. The father of two and grandfather

of two joined up in 1962 at the age of 15, and after two years in the boys' service joined the regular regiment. He served 22 years in the communications corps and became a sergeant. He spent much of his time abroad as a communications operator.

In 1982 he left Germany and came home to the Black Country to work in recruitment. The married 66-year-old, of Darby Road, Oldbury, said: "You would recruit for your own corps, so there was a real mix of people from all over the place."

They included people from the Mercian and Staffordshire regiments, Irish guards, Irish Rangers, Royal Artillery and many more.

He started off in the Dudley office, near the Davenport Brewery, before moving to an office in Carters Green West Bromwich, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, and Hill Street in Birmingham. He said: "At my age it's good to talk to people about the past, and find out what people are up to."

Call 0121 552 2290, or email bobclarkel2@yahoo.co.uk

# Developer in pledge over controversial homes plan

THE developer behind controversial plans for 175 homes in a village near Stourbridge has vowed to work with residents to address their concerns over the development.

Cala Homes has been given the go-ahead by Bromsgrove District Council for outline proposals to build the homes on land on the Hagley Hall estate off Kidderminster Road. But the scheme has attracted fierce opposition from villagers who fear it would overstretch services such as the school and doctor's surgery.

They are also concerned about traffic and noise and air pollution.

But Darren Humphreys, regional managing director for Cala Homes, said the firm welcomed the council's decision and would be talking to residents.

"The development will bring much needed housing to the area, including affordable homes. "We appreciate the concerns of some local residents about the impact of the development in the area and we have listened and responded to those concerns during public consultation."

Workshops "We will continue to engage with the local community as we put together the detail of the scheme and are planning a series of workshops to enable local people and parish councilors the opportunity to have their say on the kind of development they would like to see."

He added that questions could be emailed to the firm at hagley.info@cala.co.uk. Campaigners are determined to keep up their opposition to the scheme.

Hagley Parish Council chairman Steve Colella said they were now pressing ahead with legal action and were considering seeking a judicial review.

## Chance to honour the unsung heroes



The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram launches the Dudley Civic Awards with last year's winner Ros Bratt-Wyton and her glass trophy

UNSUNG heroes in the Dudley borough will get the recognition they deserve thanks to the mayor's Civic Awards.

The scheme has been running for a decade and to mark the milestone a new category has been added this year - the William Shenstone award for the environment.

It is in honour of the landscape gardener who created The Leasowes park in Halesowen and will join the four other categories which are also named after the borough's greats, including the Duncan Edwards award for sport, the Cedric Hardwicke award for arts, the Frank Foley award for community spirit and the Thomas Attwood award for education.

There will also be a sixth trophy up for grabs, the Mayor's Award, which will be decided by a public vote next month.

The mayor, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, will nominate four people for this award.

Last year's winner was Ros Bratt-Wyton, who helped set up the Georgina Unit at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital in 1998. She has since helped raise millions of pounds through the appeal fund.

A judging panel will decide the other four categories. Nominations for this year's awards are now open and people will be able to put names forward until February 18.

Councillor Mottram said: "As Mayor of Dudley I've been fortunate to meet people who do amazing things. It's now up to the public to nominate these unsung heroes to give them the recognition they deserve."

People can nominate online at [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) or pick up a form from libraries.

## NEWS in brief

### Friends needed for playground

AN adventure playground in Dudley is recruiting members for its friends group.

The Friends of Sycamore Adventure are holding a coffee morning on January 30.

The group is made up of parents and professionals who give a few hours per month.

Refreshments will be available from 9.30am.

People need to confirm their attendance by dropping into Sycamore Adventure, Old Park Farm Estate, or calling 01384 813755.

### Healthy outlook for shops group

THE entrepreneurs who started the Julian Graves chain are back in business with 10 health food stores now open and run from a Black Country base.

JG Foods has its distribution centre at The Pennett Estate, in Kingswinford.

The firm sells dried fruits, nuts and confectionery at its Grape Tree branded outlets around the country.

More than 30 people are employed so far.

### £900 raised by class for charities

STOURBRIDGE Dog Training Class in Stourbridge has donated £900 to two animal charities.

The group raised the money over the past year at its once-a-week classes and Christmas party. The group meets at Wollescote Community Centre, Wassell Road.

Half the cash was given to Friends of the Animals, the other half went to Far Forest Dog Rescue.

### Temporary block set for demolition

PLANS to demolish a temporary storage block at Stourbridge Institute Social Club in Market Street have been lodged.

The structure will be replaced with a permanent one under the plans. A decision is expected to be made by planners in the next three months.

### Burns celebration

BURNS Night will be celebrated with a three-course dinner at Dunsley Hall Hotel, in Kinver, on January 25. It starts at 7pm.

Tickets cost £24.95 and bookings and details are available on 01384 877077.

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## NEWS

# Idea to cut the costs of libraries is shelved

**COST-CUTTING** plans to create a single Black Country-wide library service have been shelved by council bosses.

Talks on a possible merger had been taking place between Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell councils in an attempt to save more than £1 million a year.

They have now decided not to press ahead with the plans to share back office functions for a combined service as each council had different priorities.

The plan was for a single management structure across the area.

Dudley Council still needs to find savings of £347,000 in 2013/14, which could lead to redundancies. Wolverhampton City Council has overhauled its library service as part of proposals to save £1m.

### Shortfall

In Walsall, cost-cutting measures have been put in place as part of plans to save £140,000 in the next three years.

Dudley is now looking at reducing staffing levels in the libraries, archives and adult learning department to find £75,000 of the shortfall, says a report by adult services director Andrea

by Heather Large

Pope-Smith. Further proposals to find the remaining savings are being drawn up.

The report said: "To meet the identified savings there will be a requirement to reduce staffing level."

Although plans for a single service have been dropped, councils said they would continue to work together to help reduce costs. Sandwell cabinet member for leisure services Councillor Linda Horton said: "It was decided to work on co-operative arrangements like book purchasing contract arrangements, that will help to reduce costs."

Wolverhampton's assistant director for leisure, Rob Willoughby, said the councils would meet regularly to "initiate collaborative working".

## The three pets which are also lifesavers



**Cara, Ealga and Teagan with their owner Paddy Grice**  
 GIANT-SIZED Irish wolfhounds Teagan, Cara and Ealga are beloved pets but they are also lifesavers.

The three dogs are what owners Paddy and Gill Grice describe as "walking blood banks".

Rescue dogs Teagan, Cara and Ealga have found a loving home with the Pedmore couple. And Mr Grice, aged 54, said: "Dog blood can't be stored like human blood can and the nearest centre for it is in Leicester. If you've got a dog which has lost blood in an accident then it can't wait four or five hours."

Mr and Mrs Grice, of Chawn Park Drive, have found themselves caring for up to four of the imposing beasts at a time. They can be up to 1.2m in height and weigh up to 75kg. Because of their sheer size Teagan and Cara act as blood donor dogs for Blacks Veterinary Group. More details can be found at [www.dogblooddonors.com](http://www.dogblooddonors.com)

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## NEWS

# Tributes after death of top model aircraft flyer

TRIBUTES have been paid to one of the country's most successful flyers of model aircraft who died earlier this month.

Stafford Screen, who was 78 when he died of suspected heart failure, lived in Wollescote, Stourbridge, and was the most consistently successful international contest model flyer that Britain has ever produced.

He flew for the country 31 times in world and European championships.

Mr Screen attended Powke Lane School in Blackheath, before going on to Britannia Road Secondary School.

He began learning to fly free flight models soon after the Second World War. He became a member of the Blackheath and Halesowen Model Aircraft Club, while at the same time beginning an engineering apprenticeship.

His apprenticeship saw him launch his professional career as a mechanical and industrial design engineer, which gave him an upper hand when designing model planes.

## Married

After completing national service with the RAF, he took a break from model flying, and married Pamela, whom he met at a dance in Wolverhampton.

He played for Old Hill Cricket Club in Cradley Heath and football at a high level, and worked at British Castors in Great Bridge and Colson Castors in West Bromwich.

But he could not resist model flying, and after a visit to a national competition in 1974, he got involved again. He was soon part of the Great British team, and was in 23 consecutive world and European championships from 1977 to 1999.

He picked up three individual silver medals, was on four gold medal



Stafford Screen with one of his trophies



In his garden in 1951

winning teams, one silver and two bronze. He travelled the world to compete, and two years ago went to Krbavsko in Croatia to take part in the World Free Flight Championships, coming fourth with his team.

Rules on free-flight aircraft allow the use of just five seconds of power after which the aircraft becomes a glider. The sport is judged on the flight's duration, so launching the aircraft into a rising warm air is the key to success.

"He will be missed by his many friends on every continent and I will particularly feel his loss," said Martin Dilly, of the British Model Flying Association. He added: "I had the pleasure of managing championship teams all over the world with Stafford as a member and he was always utterly reliable and an asset to the other flyers."

Mr Screen leaves wife Pamela, aged 76, two children and four grandchildren. Mrs Screen said: "He was a real perfectionist. Everyone I knew admired him and I know he will be badly missed. He was most respected and recognised as a world class model flyer. I was so proud of him."

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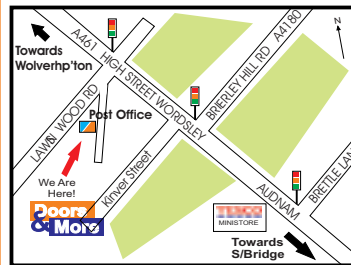
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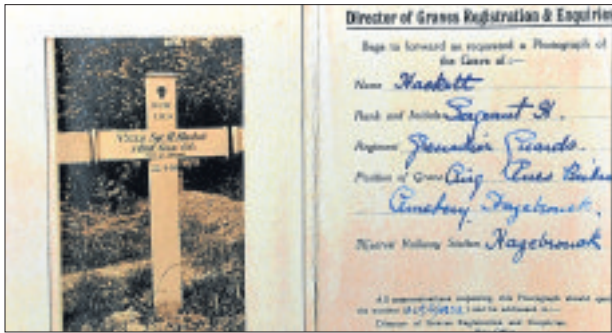
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## MEMORY LANE



Tribute to a fallen soldier - Sgt Harry Hackett's grave in Hazebrouk, France



Harry with his wife Olive, who was told about the truce



Sgt Harry Hackett, left, convalescing in 1916 in Dorchester after being injured

## A postcard sent to wife tells of Great War truce

by Louise Jew

THE Christmas truce when British and German soldiers ventured out of the trenches 99 years ago in a touching display of festive spirit is one of the most heartwarming stories of wartime history.

Harry Hackett - a Grenadier guard from Old Hill - was among the troops who let bygones be bygones to shake hands, or even play football, with the enemy.

And that discovery led to his great-nephew, Andy Rudall, embarking on a labour of love to tell the tale of the ancestor he only knew existed after a chance purchase in a charity shop.

Andy, aged 50, of Collis Street, Ambicote, Stourbridge, has now written a book called Neat Little Rows - The Black Country Grenadier, charting his journey of discovery.

Andy, IT manager for a Birmingham law firm, had just bought a book by his favourite author, John Grisham, in

Stourbridge's Action Heart shop in 2009 when he was told at the till there was a "two for the price of one deal".

So he browsed the shelves and selected The First Casualty, a crime thriller by Ben Elton set in the First World War. As he read, he became gripped by gruesome descriptions of the trenches and "going over the top" and, later that year he and his wife, Jacqui, visited war graves.

His grandmother, Annie Nock, told him about her uncle Harry, of High Street, Old Hill, who had been in the Grenadier Guards.

He died, aged 27, at the Battle of The Lys as the Germans made a final push before the war ended in 1918.

It set Andy on a trail that led to him discovering photographs of his hero great great uncle and even a postcard showing he was involved in the famous Christmas truce.

Touching postcards from Harry to his wife, Olive, include one, dated

October 28 1914, saying: "I never thought anything could happen the same as I have seen this last few days. There was about 80 casualties in my company in one day and we have lost five or six officers."

"I hardly know how I got through it all myself... about four times as many Germans as there were us, still their losses were far more serious than ours."

"In fact we were told that their dead were piled up so high in front of their trenches that they could not see to fire over them."

In the postcard about the Christmas truce he says: "Dear O, I am sending you this postcard with two of the German soldiers' addresses on, which I got on Boxing Day. I suppose you saw in the papers about us going across, out of the trenches and having a word or two together."

The book is available for £7.99 at the Black Country Living Museum, local branches of Waterstones, on-line at the Amazon website or Lulu or at [www.neatlittlerows.co.uk](http://www.neatlittlerows.co.uk)



Sgt Harry Hackett's postcard telling of the truce



Andy Rudall with his book Neat Little Rows - The Black Country Grenadier after researching the life of Harry

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## NEWS

## Sam splashing out



Sam Britton, aged 23, from Dudley, is taking part in a sponsored swim in memory of his grandmother, Joyce Smith

A KEEN swimmer is hoping people will splash out to help raise money for charity.

Sam Britton is aiming to swim 100 lengths to raise money in memory of his grandmother, Joyce Smith from Wordsley.

Sam, aged 23, a marketing executive from Gornal Wood, has pledged to raise at least £100 for the Alzheimer's Society.

He says festive excess has left him able to manage only 10 to 15 lengths before he needs a break.

But he is in training at Wombourne Leisure Centre to build up his stamina to swim nearly two miles non-stop on March 2. Anyone who would like to support Sam should visit <http://bit.ly/Suli73>.

# Plans for 70 homes near reserve get green light

PLANS for 70 homes on the edge of a Dudley nature reserve have been approved. The houses will be built near Saltwells Local Nature Reserve on the Kuehne and Nagel UK site which provides warehousing and transport services.

by Andrew Turton

Around 34 people employed at the site in Saltwells Road, Netherton, will be moved to the company's other sites out of the area.

Planning committee member Councillor Tim Wright said the scheme would mean jobs were lost from Dudley, adding: "I think it is a great shame."

Netherton councillor Qadar Zada also voiced concerns on increased traffic using the site which could affect air quality in the area.

## Blamed

He is already leading a campaign to improve air quality after Netherton was identified as a problem area.

Dudley Council is conducting an air quality survey around Netherton and Cradley, with traffic congestion blamed for the problem.

Councillor Zada said: "The air quality is extremely

poor in Netherton and we must...improve this."

However, Dudley Council's planning committee voted unanimously to award outline permission for demolition of the factory units.

A more detailed plan looking at the scale and sizes of homes will be outlined at a later date.

Under the proposals, developer Aube Properties Ltd would be asked to make a contribution of £2,365 to the nature reserve for foot-path improvements.

Out of the homes built, 10 per cent would be classified as affordable housing.

The approach to the Saltwells Road junction with Saltwells Lane will be changed.

A wall will be moved and the site landscaped to give drivers a better view at the blind corner.

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## LETTERS

### How the cuts are made is crucial

I THINK David Cameron's "problem" lies not in persuading the public savings need to be made but how they are made. The arguments for slashing benefits and essential services has not been won. The welfare budget may account for one third of national spending and that is too high.

However, instead of removing benefits which, represent little more than spare change for the very wealthy - I am thinking of free bus passes; the winter fuel allowance and in extreme cases the old age pension - this government is taking money from those who have least to start with in real terms.

This cannot be fair and will undermine all of the other initiatives rightly taken by the coalition upon weeding out benefit cheats because welfare reform in its current guise will not only punish those guilty of abusing the system but will also punish the genuine claimant.

This will cause resentment and serve to alienate those genuinely unable to earn a living in the conventional sense.

A case in point is a relative of mine. He is 58 worked most of his life. He did have a spell of three years on sick pay following a very bad accident but until last August had worked constantly for 29 years. His pay was never substantial

but he raised a family and paid his way. He has little savings but owes no one anything. Now he is unemployed and work is difficult to find if you are unskilled and the wrong side of 50 but instead of getting support he will have to pay £50 a month for the spare bedroom in his house and face a real terms cut in his benefit from April. I believe most people view such things as profoundly unfair particularly when government is giving tax breaks to millionaires

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I HAD the privilege of attending the Dormston School, Sedgley, on Tuesday December 11 and were entertained with music, drama and some excellent poems and verse, spoken by the teaching staff, it was brilliant.

The whole show must have taken so much effort by the staff and boys and girls who performed; such dedication.

We hear so much adverse comments about young people today, and it is very refreshing to see these young ones put in such a special effort.

My granddaughter Courtney took part, which made me very proud. Thank you everyone concerned.

A brilliant New Year to you.

**B PAYTON  
Woodcross Lane  
Coseley**

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Stourbridge Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53  
Queen Street, Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

stourbridgechrons@  
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## Thanks for helping Santa raise £7,250

THE Kingswinford and Stourbridge Lions Club would like to say a very big thank-you to everyone who gave so generously during our Santa Sleigh tour.

To all the grown-ups and children, who braved the very non-seasonal wet weather to meet Santa we hope you had a very Happy Christmas. During our travels Santa and his Sleigh collected £7,250 which will be distributed to nominated charities at a presentation evening at the Stourbridge Institute and Social Club on January 28.

We would also like to thank the management of Sainsbury's Ambleside, Asda in Brierley Hill, The Ryemarket and Aldi, Wollaston, for allowing us to collect during December. Money collected will be shared between Insight, Prostate Cancer and Compton Hospice.

And a special thank-you to Trust Skoda Stourbridge for lending us a vehicle to tow Santa and his Sleigh.

**JAMES ZULIK,  
Santa Sleigh Master 2012,  
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## NEWS

# Dancing gran steps in to support Hippodrome

## Fear over safety of dolls

A MOTHER was horrified after discovering dolls bought in the Black Country for her one-year-old child are subject to a European ban.

Tammy McMullon, 23, of Quarry Bank, had let her daughter Skye-Lilly play with the two colourful fruit head dolls before finding out about the ban on the internet.

She found a warning from trading standards officers in Blackpool who describe the toys as "dangerous" because of a chemical, phthalates.

Mrs McMullon, of Robin Hood Road, said the toys were bought from a stall by her mother Lisa Chetkowski-Randell and her husband Stephen's grandmother Edna Hill. She said: "I was horrified when I found out".

Anyone with concerns can call 08454 040 506.



Stephen and Tammy McMullon and Skye-Lilly

A SALSA dancing great-gran has added her support to the campaign to save Dudley Hippodrome from demolition.

Paddy Jones, who won fans globally after being on a Spanish version of Britain's Got Talent wants the former theatre to be restored. Dudley Council has plans to demolish the building.

It has been empty since previous owners Gala Bingo closed it in 2009.

The 77-year-old founder member of Stourbridge Pantomime Company performed twice at the Castle Hill venue.

### Shame

Mrs Jones, who gave up dancing aged 22, ran a shop in Stourbridge before moving to Spain in 2001 where she returned to her hobby.

The great-grandmother, who performs worldwide with dance partner Nicko Espina, said: "I appeared in Jack and the Beanstalk at Dudley Hippodrome when I

was 12 and then again when I was 14 or 15.

"It's a well-known building in Dudley and it would be a real shame if it was to be pulled down. And to replace it with a car park would be very sad to see."

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome have a business plan for a community theatre to host West End-style shows and workshops. Dudley Council is looking at it with independent experts. There is still no date for the demolition application to be heard by councillors.

Deputy council leader, Councillor Shaikat Ali, also regeneration chief, said they were awaiting the response from the experts.

by Tom Mason

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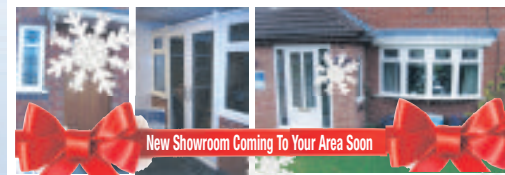
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## NEWS

# Path is set for closure to beat antisocial behaviour

## Public get say on policing

A PATH which has become a "magnet for bad behaviour" could be closed to stop yobs congregating.

Residents have long complained about the walkway between Robin Hood Road and Marion Close, Quarry Bank.

A petition signed by 35 people calling for action was handed in to council chiefs. Councillor Bryan Cotterill said work was under way to gate off the path following a rise in anti-social behaviour. The council is looking to make an order under the Highways Act to shut it. The work is expected to cost £3,500.

The 30-metre long path is parallel to a private drive to three properties. It is often used as a part of a route from the village to the Merry Hill shopping centre.

But police said there had been complaints from people living nearby who were being plagued by antisocial behaviour.

The number of problems has "significantly increased" during the past two years, officers say.

### Suffered

A report says: "It is strongly believed that if the alleyway was permanently closed there would be a marked reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour as individuals would have no cause to use this area."

Councillor Cotterill said steps on the path were "a magnet for bad behaviour".

"I am very supportive of the footpath being closed off," he added. "It has also been supported by the police. There is also a safety issue because the steps lead to a turning point in the road."

A decision is to be made tomorrow (Friday).



The new Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones, right, with Supt Stuart Johnson

THE new Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands has said the public will get a say on how money for policing is to be spent.

Bob Jones visited Brierley Hill police station to meet senior officers including Supt Stuart Johnson, who highlighted anti-social behaviour as one of the key issues residents cared about in the Dudley and Stourbridge area.

Mr Jones, a former Wolverhampton Labour councillor, said: "One of my key jobs is to listen to the public and ensure the money is spent tackling issues they most care about."

"By talking to officers, engaging with partner agencies and listening to the public, I intend to do just that."

Mr Jones will set the police budget and priorities for the next five years.

He will consult with community leaders, police and relevant partnership areas such as Victim Support. He has also said he will fight for fairer funding for the force, which is having to make £126 million in savings over the next three years.

Supt Johnson said Dudley had the lowest crime rates across the force. Police were keen to concentrate on house burglaries, and people said they were most concerned about antisocial behaviour, he added.

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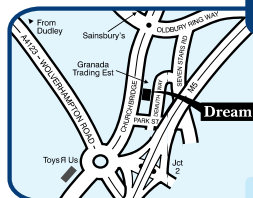
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## Walking in moonlight

AN annual charity moonlit walk for women will be held this summer for a hospice in Stourbridge.

The Moonlight Memories walk starts from Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club, in Swindon Road, Wall Heath.

The 6.5 mile event is on May 11 with funds raised going to Mary Stevens Hospice. Walkers can gather from 7pm for a warm up at 7.30pm.

Registration is £12. Walkers must be over 12 and anyone under 16 must have an adult with them. Visit [www.marystevenshospice.co.uk](http://www.marystevenshospice.co.uk) or call 01384 377778.

## Archives on schedule



Construction has reached the halfway mark

THE multi-million pound archives project in Dudley which has now reached the half-way mark and is on track to be completed this summer.

External cladding on the £6 million building, near the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road, is almost complete.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "The exciting work to create an archives centre in Dudley, that we are sure will be the envy of others, is gathering pace all the time."

"We have now reached the half-way stage of the development work as construction started last summer and is on schedule to be completed this summer."

"As well as housing the borough's archives, once open, the new centre will provide IT and wireless services, education and conference rooms, a rare books library and a research room."

The centre is being built by Midland's contractor GF Tomlinson and is being part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, as part of the wider redevelopment of the Castle Hill area of Dudley.

Once the building is finished, Dudley Council's archives service will relocate from its building, in Mount Pleasant, Coseley.

When the new one opens it will also be used to store documents for neighbouring Sandwell Council.

## Prizes plan for the right rubbish to boost recycling

RADICAL plans to encourage more people to recycle have been unveiled – including entering rubbish into raffles for the chance to win prizes.

Children will add a 'guilt factor' for parents as binmen will be handing out school vouchers to every home correctly separating its waste.

It is part of plans by Wolverhampton City Council to make use of a £2.68 million government grant.

The cash, offered to ensure there will always be weekly bin collections, is being used to get more people to put recyclable rubbish into the correct bin.

It comes after Dudley Council was also awarded £1.8m to continue emptying bins every week. Environment councillor Tracy

Wood said the money will be spent on increasing the amount of recycling collections in the borough.

The council is planning to spend the money on extra vehicles, boxes, bags and staff in order to roll out the plastic bottle and cardboard recycling trial to all households in the borough.

Under plans in Wolverhampton, residents would be sent stickers to put on recyclable rubbish such as cardboard boxes. Items would then be selected at random from the council's processing plant in Southampton and prizes handed out.

Wolverhampton City Council has been offered £2.68m over three years if it commits to keeping its weekly collections of non-recyclable waste.

## Gary's gruelling cycle ride



Gary James is congratulated by colleagues Daren Taylor, Rob Kidd, Ashley Jones, Michael Higgs, Chris Beasley and Abby Wright, after his 500km ride

GARY JAMES has walked the Great Wall of China, trekked in Peru and journeyed through Vietnam and Cambodia on his charity fundraising exploits.

And for his latest challenge, he hopped on his bike for a gruelling 310-mile cycle ride through central America as he smashed through the £40,000 barrier.

Mr James, who is a director at Kingswinford-based metal suppliers Alcomet Ltd, took nine days to complete the challenge late last year.

His ride took him through Panama, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, to raise funds for children's charity the NSPCC. Mr James said his challenge took him through stunning

scenery, including rainforests, to the Caribbean coast.

He said: "It was a tough trip involving high temperatures over rough terrain through primary rainforest, passing smoking volcanoes which meant climbing steep gradients."

"But it was a lifetime experience and I am really pleased to have travelled through three central American countries as well as riding along the beautiful Caribbean coast."

"It was awe-inspiring."

He is now planning to take on the physical and mental challenge of cycling through Death Valley in America and has already started training.

## Businesses get offer of grant help to keep their costs down

BUSINESSES in the Wyre Forest district are being urged to sign up for a share of a £405,000 cash fund that could help their running costs.

Worcestershire County Council, working with Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce, has been awarded the money from the West Midlands European Regional Development Fund programme.

The fund aims to support small and medium-sized enterprises to become more resource efficient.

Businesses can qualify for grants and free

assessments to help reduce costs of energy, waste, water and raw materials, and improve profitability.

The free assessments on offer involve providing businesses with an appraisal of their premises, equipment, processes and performance to identify ways to reduce energy consumption and waste and improve use of water and raw materials.

They can then apply for a grant towards projects costing up to £15,000, with them providing 55 per cent of the cost and the rest coming from the fund.

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## NEWS

# Cyclist Paul to saddle up again after fight for life

A CYCLIST who nearly died after a head-on crash in France has pledged to battle back from his horrendous injuries to have another go at tackling the arduous mountain bike ride.

Paul Greaves, a PcsO, wants another go at Mont Ventoux – the iconic mountain on the Tour de France route – to face his “demons”.

Mr Greaves, 37, from Stourbridge, was practising for a charity ride on Mont Ventoux in September when he was hit by a van, leaving him in a coma for three days.

The bone structure in his right shoulder was totally smashed and he may never regain the use of his arm.

Paul, Pc Gareth Harrison, a 41-year-old traffic officer from Kidderminster, and Barry Tyson, also 41, a Gloucestershire train driver, had arrived in France to cycle three routes around the steep Mont Ventoux for the Stillborn and Neonatal Death Society, Sands.

“I hit a truck,” said Paul. “I was flown to hospital in Marseilles and had a bleed on the brain so they put me in a coma for three days.”

His wife, Jayne, a 37-year-old security manager at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, flew out to Marseilles and 10 days later he was flown to Birmingham’s Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where surgeons grafted a length of nerve from his left leg to try to repair some of the damage to his scapula.

His aim is to return to Mont Ventoux with an adapted bike.

“It’s to face my demons,” said Paul, who also hopes to return to work soon.



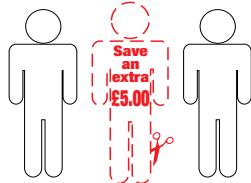
Paul Greaves from Stourbridge, who was in a coma after his crash

## Choir raises the notes

CHOIR Viva Musica has raised £2,200 for Stourbridge’s Mary Stevens Hospice through its 2012 concerts.

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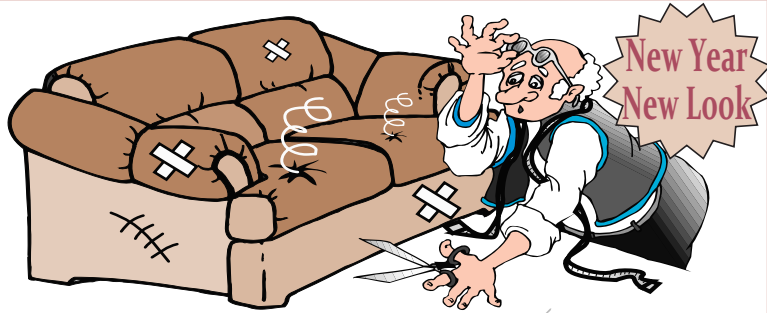


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## GARDENING

# Be patience and earn bedding plant reward

**AS we approach February, often the coldest month of the year, real gardeners are starting to grow in earnest.**

The wise old birds that sow seed in mid winter are able to grow plants that will be ready for planting out at just the right time.

Some bedding plants are relatively slow growers and need several months to transform from seeds to plants ready to flower.

Tender geraniums, begonias and lobelia are examples that ideally need to be sown now so that they receive 18 to 20 weeks of growth and are ready for planting out when frosts are finished around the end of May.

It doesn't matter what the weather is like, as long as you have a warm spot for germination and a bright windowsill on which the seedlings can grow.

You just need patience for this early bird gardening that will save you plenty of money compared with buying garden-ready plants in May.

### Waste

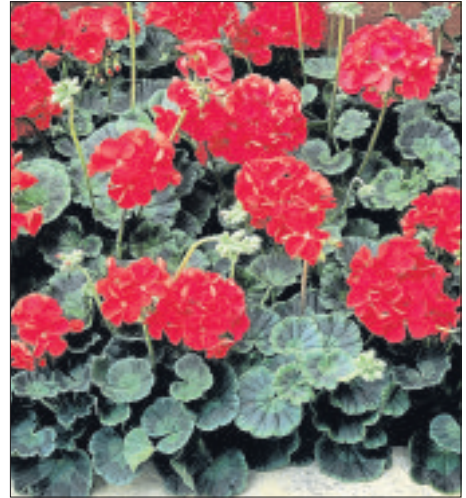
Simply take a clean plastic seed tray and fill it with fresh Miracle-Gro Seed & Cutting Compost.

Use a flat piece of wood to level the surface and then place the tray in a shallow bowl of water to gradually moisten the compost from the bottom.

As with all composts it pays to buy fresh every season as the nutrients available to the roots diminishes gradually after the bag is opened.

Saving pennies by using up old compost is rarely the way to ensure good strong growth.

Instead it can spell disaster and a total waste of your investment in packets of seed. Follow the pack instruction on your flower seed packet as to whether you should cover the seed



Geraniums such as the Vista Red pictured here, require darkness to germinate and do best in warm conditions of 24C

### Topical tips

**Take time to plan your flower borders, beds, hanging baskets and patio pots so you can buy packets of seed, pots of seedling plants or plug plants at the time when there is maximum choice**

with more compost and the temperature required for germination.

Bedding begonias need light while geraniums require darkness. To keep

the compost evenly moist while germination occurs, I find it useful to cover the tray with a plastic dome or slip the whole seed tray inside a white or clear plastic bag.

Geraniums, begonia and lobelia germinate best in warm conditions of 24C (75F).

Unfortunately they require this temperature consistently for fastest germination, which is where a thermostatically controlled propagator comes in really handy.

● Words and photographs supplied by John Clowes, of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company



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# What's On! Stourbridge

## Curtain is set to go up on Aladdin

A DRAMA group's take on pantomime Aladdin begins later this month – with a genie inspired by Tommy Cooper.

Startime Variety perform the panto at the Cornbow Centre in Halesowen from January 30 to February 2.

The script was written by group member Mike Clifford, who decided to create a genie with all Cooper's characteristics. He said: "Tommy Cooper's jokes weren't particularly good but he made people laugh because of the way he told them."

For tickets at £10, call 0121 550 3899.

## Doddy's date for town hall show

KEN DODD brings his Happiness Show to Dudley Town Hall on March 9.

The show starts 7pm and tickets are £18 and £20.

Then Irish folk music legends The Fureys & Davey Arthur play a special St Patrick's weekend concert at the town hall on March 16.

The Fureys have been entertaining audiences for more than 30 years and have had hits with When You Were Sweet 16 and The Green fields of France.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £20.

## Dance invitation

A TEA dance takes place every Monday at Nine Locks Community Centre in Hill Street, Brierley Hill. The sessions run from 2pm to 4pm. They cost £2 each. Refreshments will be available in the interval.

# Silly sausage Harry is back for sizzling show

**HARRY Hill has not done a live stand-up tour for six years. Now the comedian is back on the road – and it has been well worth the wait.**

In Sausage Time, the floppy-collared comic returns with a show that dazzles on every level.

For instance, it pledges to give us absolute proof that God exists, provides a section for Tongans, showcases the legendary Stouffer the Cat and proffers a debut solo stand-up spot to Harry's son Gary, best known for his role as Alan Sugar in Harry Hill's TV Burp.

## Slapstick

We are also promised performances by the show band, The Harrys, the whistler-of-chart-hits grandson Sam and an all-singing, all-dancing finale. Oh, and a giant sausage. One thing we should anticipate above all else is a wonderful sense of silliness.

"There's never a serious agenda to my comedy," said Harry. "I use a lot of slapstick and a lot of silly wordplay and puns."

"The show doesn't have an overall theme. It's just a load of silly stuff."

The comic has been doing warm-up shows and has relished the experience of per-

forming live again. "I've loved it," he said. "It gives you such a buzz. Hearing laughter is such an exciting feeling."

Harry added that, after the long-winded process of making TV shows, stand-up offers more freedom.

"Stand-up is so immediate. You can have an idea in the morning and get a laugh for it in the evening. No-one else can tell you what to do, apart from the audience. The audience is the ultimate arbiter."

The comedian, who has won multiple BAFTA and British Comedy Awards, said he had no regrets after quitting TV Burp after 11 years.

"At the end of that last show, all the production team were crying but I went back to my dressing room and felt like a weight had been lifted."

"The closest equivalent was when I gave up medicine."

Sausage Time is at the New Alexandra Theatre on February 26 and 27. Tickets are £31.



Harry Hill is returning to stand-up and, above, the TV Burp entertainer is seen with the legendary Stouffer the Cat

## Comedy that has a cutting edge

Stourbridge Town hall is holding another of its monthly comedy events which showcases new and established talent.

The show will feature the best up-and-coming talent from all over the UK before they hit the big time, giving audiences the chance to see cutting edge.

Previous Comedians that have played the venue include Alan Carr, Patrick Monaghan, Stephen K Amos, Reginald D Hunter and Hal Cruttenden.

Please be advised the show will contain Adult material which is not suitable for under 18s.

For more information contact Stourbridge Town Hall or visit [www.Dudley.gov.uk](http://www.Dudley.gov.uk).

## Cinderella panto at the town hall

STOURBRIDGE Pantomime Company has been producing pantomimes for more than 40 years and their latest is Cinderella.

Cinderella will be performed between January 19 and 26 at the Stourbridge Town Hall Theatre.

Tickets can be bought from the ticket secretary on 01384 836 963 or via [www.stourbridgepanto.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgepanto.co.uk).

## Fundraiser night

JB'S Nightclub on Castle Hill, Dudley is holding a fundraising night for Dudley Hippodrome. The event features local bands and begins at 7.30pm on Friday January 25.

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## Live Snooker: The Masters

**BBC2, 4.30pm**  
Hazel Irvine presents the second semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the line-up for the final will be confirmed. Shaun Murphy prevailed over two-time champion John Higgins with a 6-4 victory in last year's concluding semi-final, earning him a chance to claim the title in a contest against Neil Robertson. However, it was the Thunder from Down Under who went on to win the prestigious trophy. This year's draw meant that Murphy and Robertson could have met in the last four once again.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Good Cook. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 5.30 Animal Antics. 6.00 Richard Hammond's Secret Service.** The hidden-camera show features Bill Oddie destroying a woman's garden as he presents a new TV programme and the people of Oxford being subjected to a dodgy lie-detector test.  
**6.45 Britain's Brightest.** Clare Balding hosts the game show, featuring a challenge in which two players are locked in identical rooms and have to solve the puzzles inside to blow the doors off.  
**8.00 The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize.  
**8.50 Casualty.** Jordan is desperate to keep Yvonne on life support even as her condition deteriorates – until another patient forces him to reconsider his decision. A man steals from the ED.  
**9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes tries to persuade the health visitor Granada is in need of respite care. (R)  
**10.00 BBC News: Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day.** Including West Ham United v Queens Park Rangers; National Lottery Update.  
**11.50 The Football League Show.** Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.  
**1.05 Weatherview. 1.10 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.00 Close. 6.30 Film: Flight from Freedom.** (1943) Drama, starring Rosalind Russell. **8.10 Film: Sister Kenny.** (1946) A nurse discovers a treatment for polio, but struggles to convince the medical establishment that it will work. Fact-based drama, starring Rosalind Russell and Alexander Knox. **10.00 A History of Britain** by Simon Schama. (R)  
**11.00 Meet the Ancestors.** **11.30 Map Man.** **12.00 Indian Food Made Easy.** (R) **12.30 Talking Pictures. 1.20 Film: The Moon Is Blue.** (1953) Comedy, starring Maggie McNamara. **3.00 Coast.** (R) **3.30 Flog It!** (R) **4.30 Live Snooker: The Masters.** Concluding coverage of the first semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London. **5.30 Winterview.** The Big Freeze, 1963.  
**6.30 Dad's Army.** Capt Mainwaring and the platoon are asked to provide a guard of honour for a royal train passing through Walmington-on-Sea, but another locomotive confounds their plans. (R)  
**7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the second semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the line-up for the final will be confirmed.  
**10.30 Film: Doubt.** (2008) A disciplinarian nun at a Catholic school suspects a charismatic priest of behaving inappropriately with a student. Drama, with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams.  
**12.10 Snooker Extra.** Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the first Masters semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the first entrant for the final was decided over the best of 11 frames.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. 6.10 Handy Manny. 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.15 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.30 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 8.05 Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.30 Victorious. (R) 9.00 Jessie. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 11.20 Saturday Cookbook. (R) 12.20 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 1.35 My Tasty Travels with Lydia Bellingham. (R) 2.35 Dinner Date. (R) 3.35 River Monsters. (R) 4.05 Film: Garfield. (2004) 5.30 Regional Programme: Weather. **6.00 New You've Been Framed!** Top 100 Weddings. Comedian Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 wedding-themed camcorder calamities and viewer-submitted mobile-phone clips.  
**7.00 Splash!** Five more celebrities, including Linda Barker, Dom Joly, Anthony Ogogo and Tina Malone, learn how to dive with Tom Daley as they battle for two places in next week's semi-final.  
**8.30 Take Me Out.** An accountant, a mixologist, a sales assistant and a historian enter the love lift in the hope of impressing 30 single women.  
**9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Kimberley Walsh and Madness.  
**10.45 ITV News: Weather. 11.00 Film: The Game.** (1997) Thriller, with Michael Douglas. **1.20 The Store. 2.50 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.30 Pushing Daisies. (R) 4.15 ITV Nightscreen.****

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Beach Volleyball. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 Undercover Boss Australia. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. 4.00 Ireland. 4.40 Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland. 5.10 Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland. 5.45 Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland.  
**6.10 Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland.** Comedian Joe Rooney annoys Celia Holman-Lee by printing the menu for his dinner in five languages, and as the evening draws to a close, the week's winner is revealed.  
**6.40 Channel 4 News. 7.10 Thought.tv. 7.15 Film: The Simpsons Movie.** (2007) Springfield faces destruction after pollution caused by Homer provokes the wrath of the US government. Animated comedy, with the voice of Dan Castellaneta.  
**9.00 World Without End.** A plan to rebuild the bridge is hampered by the new Lord of Wileigh, while Queen Isabella carries out a crafty scheme to persuade the king to declare war on her enemies.  
**10.00 Film: Saving Private Ryan.** (1998) Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, starring Tom Hanks.  
**1.15 Film: Exit Through the Gift Shop.** (2010) 2.40 Hollywood. 4.50 Countdown. (R) 5.35 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)**

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers: Super Samurai. 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.05 Celebrity Big Brother: Eviction. (R) 12.00 The Gadget Show. (R) 1.05 Film: Mister Roberts. (1955) 3.25 Film: Operation Crossbow. (1965) 5.45 Film: Operation Daybreak. (1975) 7.50 5 News Weekend. 7.55 NCIS.** Gibbs revisits his home town to investigate an assault that left one marine dead and another badly injured – and enlists the help of his estranged father to identify the assailant. (R)  
**8.50 NCIS.** A serial killer begins posting footage of his crimes online – and as the agents investigate, they realise that each film contains visual clues to the identity of the next victim. (R)  
**9.45 Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.  
**10.45 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side.** Emma Willis presents the CBB companion show, including celebrity guests' thoughts on the latest developments and behind-the-scenes insights.  
**11.45 Comedy Kings: Best of Just for Laughs.** Stewart Lee, Craig Hill and Aziz Ansari perform in front of audiences at Montreal's renowned Just for Laughs festival. (R)  
**12.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.25 Great Artists. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.15 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)**

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00 Merlin 7.45 Doctor Who 8.40 Top Gear 9.45 Film: Con Air** (1997) **11.30 Family Guy**  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger 8.00 A History of Art in Three Colours 9.00 Borgen 11.00 Top of the Pops: 1978 11.30 Top of the Pops: The Story of 1978**  
**ITV2**  
**3.45 You've Been Framed! 5.45 Film: Babe** (1995) **7.35 Film: The Incredible Hulk** (2008) A scientist who turns into a monster when angry is hunted by a general who wants to use him as a weapon. Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton, Tim Roth and Liv Ullmann. Including FYI Daily. **9.45 Take Me Out – The Gossip 10.30 Fake Reaction 11.15 Film: Gladiator** (2000)  
**ITV3**  
**3.45 A Touch of Frost 4.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 7.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Lewis**  
**ITV4**  
**3.30 Live Africa Cup of Nations.** South Africa v Cape Verde (Kick-off 4.00pm) **6.15 20 Goals That Shook the World 7.15 Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg** (1967) **9.30 Film: Space Cowboys** (2000)  
**E4**  
**3.40 Rules of Engagement 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Happy Endings 8.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.30 2 Broke Girls 9.00 Film: Because I Said So** (2007) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory 11.55 The Cleveland Show**  
**Film4**  
**3.30 One Million Years BC** (1966) **5.10 MirrorMask** (2005) **7.05 The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising** (2007) **9.00 10 Things I Hate About You** (1999) **10.55 The Keep** (1983)

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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 20.01.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Tony Robinson

**Time Team**  
**Channel 4, 5.25pm**  
After almost 20 years on the box, Tony Robinson's hit archaeology show will soon be history itself, but first there's a chance to enjoy this dip into the past with Hektor Rous, the son of "Aussie Earl" Keith Rous. He is keen to piece together the mysterious history of the family's Tudor country home in Suffolk. There's no shortage of intriguing stories buried in its past, such as the tale of a drunken butler who supposedly set fire to Henham Hall's wine cellar in 1773, sending the place up in flames. Can Tony and the team piece together the family home's history.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast** 7.40 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show** 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.20 Countryfile. (R) **1.20 Bargain Hunt** 2.20 Escape to the Country. (R) **3.20 Chatsworth** (R) **4.20 Liffeline** 4.30 Songs of Praise. 5.05 Africa. (R) **6.05 BBC News**: Regional News; Weather.  
**6.30 Blandings**. Connie hires a personal secretary (David Walliams) to get the house in order for a visit from the Schoonmakers – but Freddie ruins the occasion with his latest money-making scheme.  
**7.00 Countryfile**. Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury head to Exmoor, learning about Georgian photographer Alfie Vowles and the origins of the 1869 novel Lorna Doone.  
**8.00 Call the Midwife**. New series. The return of the drama sees Jenny concerned about a mum-to-be involved in an abusive marriage, while Trixie and Sister Evangeline deliver a baby on board a cargo ship.  
**9.00 Ripper Street**. The clearing of a slum for a new railway reveals a gruesome murder, leading the team to a web of conspiracy involving a local councillor, an asylum doctor and Long Susan.  
**10.00 BBC News**: Regional News; Weather.  
**10.25 Match of the Day 2**. Including Chelsea v Arsenal.  
**11.25 Room 101 – Extra Storage**. With Greg Davies, Ben Fogle and Janet Street-Porter.  
**12.05 The Celebrity Apprentice USA** 1.30 Weatherview. 1.35 News.

## BBC2

**6.00 Close** 6.55 Film: None But the Lonely Heart. (1944) Drama, starring Cary Grant. **8.45 Life in a Cottage Garden** with Carol Klein. (R) **9.15 A to Z of TV Gardening** 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30 The Little Paris Kitchen**: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. **4.30 EastEnders**. (R) **1.55 Live Snooker: The Masters**. Coverage of the opening eight frames of the final from Alexandra Palace, London. **4.45 Ski Sunday** 5.30 Flog It!  
**6.30 Orbit: Earth's Extraordinary Journey**. The planet's yearly trip around the sun and the effects it has on its inhabitants, beginning by covering the period from July to the winter solstice in December. (R)  
**7.30 Pawty Towers**. A party of German guests comes to stay and Basil resolves to ensure everyone is on their best behaviour. Last in the series. (R)  
**8.00 Live Snooker: The Masters**. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where a maximum of 11 frames will be played to decide this year's champion.  
**11.00 Film: There Will Be Blood**. (2007) A prospector's single-minded pursuit of wealth leads him into conflict with a priest over control of an oil-rich town. Historical drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis.  
**1.30 Sign Zone**: Holby City. Jac jeopardises her relationship with Jonny. Serena finds her position threatened by a competitor, and Chrissie has a health scare but is reluctant to confide in Sacha. (R) **2.30 Who You Think You Are?** Singer Annie Lennox researches her ancestry. (R) **3.30 Close**.

## ITV

**6.00 CITY: Handy Manny** 6.10 Handy Manny. **6.25 The Hive**. (R) **6.35 The Hive**. (R) **6.40 Dino Dan**. (R) **6.55 Dino Dan**. (R) **7.05 Almost Naked Animals**. (R) **7.15 Almost Naked Animals**. (R) **7.30 Almost Naked Animals**. (R) **7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles**. (R) **8.05 Rated A for Awesome** 8.15 Rated A for Awesome. **8.30 Big Time Rush** 9.00 The Aquabats Super Show. **9.30 ITV News** 9.30 There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.30 60 Minute Makeover**. (R) **11.30 May the Best House Win** Vive la France. (R) **12.30 ITV News**: Weather. **12.40 Countrywide** 12.55 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **1.55 Rosemary & Thyme**. (R) **2.55 Murder, She Wrote**. (R) **3.55 Film: Nanny McPhee**. (2005) **5.45 Regional Programme**: Weather.  
**6.00 ITV News**: Weather.  
**6.15 Dancing on Ice**. The 10 remaining stars go head to head in duels, with the judges deciding which of the couples is safe and who will require public votes to help them avoid the skate-off.  
**7.45 All Star Family Fortunes**. With Paralympic champion Jonnie Peacock and Loose Women's Sherrie Hewson.  
**8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off**. The two lowest-scoring couples compete.  
**9.00 Mr Selfridge**. Harry leaves some of his staff a little shocked when he decides to set up a beauty counter near the front entrance, while Victor has a rival for Agnes's affections.  
**10.00 ITV News at Ten**: Weather.  
**10.15 Film: The Bourne Ultimatum**. (2007) Thriller, starring Matt Damon.  
**12.15 The Store** 2.20 Monk. (R) **3.00 ITV Nightscreen**.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00 The Treacle People**. (R) **6.10 The Hoobs**. (R) **6.35 The Hoobs**. (R) **7.00 Will & Grace**. (R) **7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond**. (R) **7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond**. (R) **8.25 Frasier**. (R) **8.55 Frasier**. (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** 12.10 The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.35 The Big Bang Theory**. (R) **1.05 The Simpsons**. (R) **1.35 The Simpsons**. (R) **2.05 Film: Speed 2: Cruise Control**. (1997) **4.25 Deal or No Deal** 5.25 Time Team.  
**6.25 Channel 4 News**.  
**6.55 4thought..tv**. Members of the public reflect on religious issues.  
**7.00 Come Dine with Me**. Fitness fanatic Lindsey Berry, saleswoman Marc McAdam, hairdresser Julie Wall and Michael Webster, former butler to the Queen, take up the dinner party challenge in the Lake District.  
**8.00 The Hotel**. The staff encounter several problems as they prepare for Ladies' Night, and one of the bedrooms receives a last-minute makeover as the inspector returns to assess the Grosvenor.  
**9.00 Film: It's Complicated**. (2009) Premiere. A divorced couple are reunited at their son's college graduation, and begin a clandestine affair. Romantic comedy, starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin.  
**11.20 Rude Tube: Welcome to 2013**. Alex Zane presents 100 memorable internet clips. (R)  
**1.10 Film: Buffy the Vampire Slayer**. (1992) **2.40 Smallville**. (R) **3.20 St Elsewhere**. (R) **4.10 Deal or No Deal**. (R) **5.05 Countdown**. (R) **5.50 Shogun** with Eric LaNard. (R) **5.55 Sali Mali**. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05 Roary the Racing Car**. (R) **6.15 Fifi and the Flowerbuds**. (R) **6.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures**. (R) **6.30 The Mr Men Show**. (R) **6.45 Olive the Ostrich**. (R) **6.50 Abby's Flying Fairy School**. (R) **7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too**. (R) **7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas**. (R) **7.20 Animal Antics**. (R) **7.25 Make Way for Noddy**. (R) **7.40 City of Friends**. (R) **7.55 Little Princess**. (R) **8.05 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky**. (R) **8.25 Angelina Ballerina**. (R) **8.45 Rupert Bear**. (R) **9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom**. (R) **9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus**. (R) **9.30 Roary the Racing Car**. (R) **9.45 Jelly Jamm**. **10.00 Power Rangers Samurai**. (R) **10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold**. **11.10 Celebrity Big Brother**. (R) **12.15 Film: Loch Ness**. (1996) **2.10 Film: Muppets from Space**. (1999) **4.00 Film: Teen Wolf**. (1985) **5.50 Film: Pearl Harbor**. (2001)  
**8.55 5 News Weekend**.  
**9.00 Celebrity Big Brother**. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.  
**10.00 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side**. Emma Willis and her guests discuss how the housemates are getting on.  
**11.00 Film: The House Bunny**. (2008) Comedy, starring Anna Faris, Colin Hanks, Emma Stone and Kat Dennings.  
**1.00 SuperCasino** 4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.25 Great Artists**. (R) **4.50 County Secrets**. (R) **5.05 Hana's Helpline**. (R) **5.15 The Milkshake! Show**. (R) **5.30 Thomas & Friends**. (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car**. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Craze** 7.05 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.50 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl** (2003) **10.00 Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents** **11.00 Family Guy** **11.45 American Dad!**  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00 Magnificent Machines**: The Golden Age of the British Sports Car **8.00 Film: In Which We Serve** (1942) **9.50 Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy** **10.50 Film: Lebanon** (2009)  
**ITV2**  
**3.50 Take Me Out** **5.00 Take Me Out – The Gossip** **5.45 Film: Back to the Future** (1985) **8.00 You've Been Framed!** **9.00 The Magulaf Weekender** **10.00 Film: Heilboy II: The Golden Army** (2008)  
**ITV3**  
**3.30 Agatha Christie's Poirot** **5.35 Murder, She Wrote** **6.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot** **9.00 The Best of the Royal Variety** **10.00 Film: Dangerous Liaisons** (1988)  
**ITV4**  
**2.30 Film: All Quiet on the Western Front** (1979) **5.30 Live Africa Cup of Nations** **6.30 Police, Camera, Action!** **9.00 Film: Barb Wire** (1996) **11.00 Film: Green Street** (2005)  
**E4**  
**5.00 Revenge** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory** **7.00 New Girl** **8.00 Film: Iron Man** (2008) **10.25 The New Normal** **10.55 2 Broke Girls** **11.20 My Mad Fat Diary**  
**Film4**  
**3.00 Carry On Cabby** (1963) **4.50 Aquamarine** (2006) **6.55 Monster-in-Law** (2005) **9.00 Road to Perdition** (2002) Depression-era gangster drama, starring Tom Hanks. **11.20 Lolita** (1997)

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### MONDAY

##### Gun Fury, Channel 4, 1pm

A wealthy rancher and his fiancée take the stagecoach to California, where they intend to start a new life in the wake of the Civil War. However, during the journey an ex-Confederate outlaw and his gang of thugs attack the coach and kidnap the bride-to-be. Distracted and wounded, the rancher sets out to rescue her and punish her abductors. Western, with Rock Hudson, Donna Reed, Lee Marvin and Phil Carey. (1953)

#### TUESDAY

##### Greenfingers, BBC1, 11.30pm

Inmates at an open prison discover a passion for gardening and create a patch that attracts the attention of a haughty celebrity horticulturalist, who encourages them to compete in a prestigious competition at Hampton Court. Fact-based comedy drama, starring Helen Mirren, Clive Owen, David Kelly, Warren Clarke and Natasha Little. (2000)

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Alien Hunter, Channel 5, 11.30pm

A communications expert heads for an isolated research station in the Antarctic, where strange radio signals have been detected coming from an object in the ice. The scientists succeed in breaking the artefact open, unleashing a strange alien creature and a flesh-eating virus that endangers all life on Earth. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Spader, Janine Eser and John Lynch. (2003)



Greenfingers, Tuesday, BBC1, 11.30pm

#### THURSDAY

##### Presumed Innocent, BBC1, 12.20am

A deputy prosecutor is drawn into an affair with a seductive colleague, but she drops him when he fails to live up to her ambitions. However, when she is found dead, he is investigated under suspicion of raping and murdering her – and as a wealth of evidence piles up, he struggles to clear his name. Mystery thriller, starring Harrison Ford, Greta Scacchi, Brian Dennehy, Bonnie Bedelia and Raul Julia. (1990)

#### FRIDAY

##### Coogan's Bluff, ITV, 10.35pm

An Arizona sheriff is sent to New York to bring an imprisoned murderer back to stand trial. However, when the killer escapes, the southern lawman employs Wild West methods to recapture him, antagonising the city's police in the process. Don Siegel's crime drama, starring Clint Eastwood, Lee J Cobb, Don Stroud and Susan Clark. (1968)

### Pick of the Week

## Stars shine bright in a night of celebration

**W**e love the Oscars, Golden Globes and Emmys – the Baltas aren't half-bad either. But our favourite film or TV-related gong-giving ceremony of all has to be The National Television Awards.

Why? The answer to that is simple: because every award is voted for by the people who really count – those of us who tune in at home.

Forget the critics or the contributors' fellow cast and crew members, it's the folk who watch the shows whose opinions count the most, because without them, there would be no programmes to start off with.

So if your favourite doesn't bag a trophy on the night, you only have yourself to blame for not backing them.

The people receiving them also rate the ceremony highly, as executive producer Kim Turberville of Indigo Television, who make the National Television Awards for ITV, says:

"Viewers are the bedrock of our show because all the winners are chosen by the public. So I hope they will respond to our call to action again

this year in this quest to discover the nation's favourite stars and shows.

"The NTA trophy is the award that says people love what you do. That's why it means so much to win one."

This year, the NTAs themselves have something to celebrate, having come of age. Yes, this will be the 18th time the ceremony has taken place, and as a result, it promises to be bigger and better than ever before.

It's certainly going to be very exciting indeed, with many of the categories just too close to call.

Making its debut in the Factual Entertainment slot is The Great British Bake-Off, and you wouldn't bet against it bagging a prize.

Arguably the most intriguing battle comes in Drama, where writer Steven Moffat's two productions, Doctor Who and Sherlock, go head-to-head; their stars, Matt Smith and Benedict Cumberbatch, are also vying for the Drama Performance: Male gong.

However, both shows could miss out if the mighty Downton Abbey retains its crown, or if fans of Merlin, in their sorrow of it finally drawing to a

close at Christmas, decide to give it the ultimate farewell – one of those nice, shiny awards.

The Drama Performance: Female nominees are an intriguing bunch too. The smart money is on Sheridan Smith for her outstanding performance as a Great Train Robber's wife in Mrs Biggs, but Miranda Hart could surprise everyone – after all, she's been rather impressive in Call The Midwife.

Other awards being given on the night will be for Comedy Panel Show, Talk Show, Factual Programme, Situation Comedy, Serial Drama, Serial Drama Performance, Reality Programme, Newcomer, Entertainment Programme and Entertainment Presenter.

Dermot O'Leary hosts the ceremony from the O2 Arena in London, and watch out for his show-stopping entrance, which apparently features a very special dance partner indeed.

We're not revealing the identity of who (or what) that will be – but if you think really hard, we bet you can guess...



The National Television Awards 2013, Wednesday, ITV, 7.30pm

### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

##### Wild Things

##### Channel 4, 8.30pm

Does garden designer Chris Myers have the best job in the world? Actually no, that claim well and truly went the 'caretaker' of the Great Barrier Reef a couple of years ago. However, Chris's comes a close second – he spends his time in the fresh air, among the birds, bees, and flowers – what's not to love? Chris, who's a Royal Horticultural Society gold medalist and garden designer, is joined by one of our top botanists, Dr Trevor Dines, lichenologist Sally Eaton, and his trusty Labrador Lottie. First up, the teams head to Birmingham and they start looking for wild things amid the heart of its road transport network. Why? Because in the last 50 years, these roads have become Britain's latest nature reserve.

#### TUESDAY

##### Great Houses with Julian Fellowes

##### ITV, 9pm

Think of actor-turned-screenwriter Julian Fellowes and what springs to mind? Probably the productions he's created, in particular Downton Abbey and Gosford Park. If you've seen them, you'll probably have noticed that at the centre of both is a very posh house indeed, and Fellowes has created compelling characters who inhabit them. But now he's turning his attention to the real people who live in these places. This two-part documentary sees the Oscar-winning writer visit Goodwood House in West Sussex and Cambridgeshire's Burgley House to unearth their remarkable histories. "These are not just houses for

posh people to live in," says Julian, "their history belongs to all of us."

#### Death in Paradise

##### BBC1, 9pm

Like Midsomer Murders, the format for this winning comedy drama is simple enough: a series of nefarious crimes are committed in an idyllic setting, and we at home have to guess who did it before buttoned-up English DI Richard Poole (Miller). When the body of Valerie Dupree is discovered floating in the pool of a luxury cosmetic clinic by swimmer Jayne Smythe (Cherie Lunghi), several things point to suicide. However, Poole believes Ms Dupree was murdered. The whole thing is handled with a likeable lightness of touch, and Miller proves as engaging as those glorious Guadeloupe backdrops. Series regulars Don Warrington and Sara Martins star alongside James Fleet and Emma Pearson.

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Charley Boorman's South African Adventure

##### Channel 5, 8pm

Join the eponymous adventurer on the ride of a lifetime as he journeys through South Africa on his trusty BMW motorbike. In search of thrills and excitement, this week Charley samples South African life from three differing perspectives – in the air, deep below ground and in the bush. He takes to the skies as he learns how to para-jet and then

even tries his hand at gold mining underground; detonating the dynamite himself in search of the precious metal. He then heads into the bush getting up close and personal to Africa's greatest wild animals also enjoying some traditional dinners around the campfire. Follow his footsteps as Africa plays host to his most daring adventure yet.

#### THURSDAY

##### Silent Witness

##### BBC1, 9pm

Given the generic first 30 seconds of this week's episode, you might feel the urge to switch over, but if you like slick post-watershed dramas stick with it, because the tale of a prostitute's run-in with a mysterious pimp-bashing copper proves to be disturbingly compelling. Following the opening credits, the forensic team are called in when Joanne Henderson, a pub landlady is stabbed to death and has her little finger cut off. Although Leo and Jack collect mounting evidence that her husband was responsible, Nikki believes the man is innocent. After he is charged with the crime, she faces a race against the clock to convince her colleagues the woman was the latest victim of a serial killer.



Death in Paradise, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

#### FRIDAY

##### Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final

##### Channel 5, 9pm

Claire Richards, Frankie Dettori and Gillian Telford are among those who have been basking in the camera's spotlight, while The Hills' Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt; models Lacey Banghard and Paula Hamilton; Neil Razer 'Ruddock'; The X Factor's beloved loser Ryan Clark, and Sam Robertson (from E4 comedy Beaver Falls) have also enjoyed time in the famous abode. Millions of Neighbours fans rooted for Ryan Maloney, while Heartbeat and The Royal veteran Tricia Penrose also has a solid fanbase, but by now you'll know who's made it through to this stage and who will be licking their wounds. Expect host Brian Dowling to grill the winner in what promises to be a glitzy finale.

#### The Last Leg

##### Channel 4, 9.30pm

This show first won plaudits during the Paralympic Games, when its host, Adam Hills, and his colleagues Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker, offered an intelligent and alternative commentary on the day's events. A non-sporting version of the show was hinted at back in October when Syeda Irtizaali, Channel 4's entertainment commissioning editor, said: "We are working on a number of great ideas that will help push the show forward from its Paralympic origins into a broad, intelligent and entertaining series. I'm hugely looking forward to working again with Adam, Alex and Josh." Clearly they've found a format that works, because the trio will be fronting it for the next eight weeks – and we can't wait to see how it turns out.

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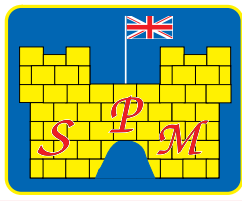
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<b>DUDLEY</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>BIRMINGHAM ROAD</b> <b>£500 pcm</b> Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished. EPC-D	<b>RUSSELLS HALL</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>CORBYN ROAD</b> <b>£560 pcm</b> Semi Detached Property, Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Garage, Front & Rear Gardens	<b>TIVIDALE</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>ASHTREE ROAD</b> <b>£395 pcm</b> Maisonette, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Communal Grounds, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking.	<b>KINGSWINFORD</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>CAMBERLEY ROAD</b> <b>£575 pcm</b> Modern Terrace Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking EPC-C
<b>DUDLEY</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>MONCRIEFFE CLOSE</b> <b>£420 pcm</b> First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Allocated Parking EPC-E	<b>PENSNETT</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>THE POPLARS, HIGH STREET</b> <b>£450 pcm</b> First floor flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking, Maintained Gardens	<b>WOLLASTON</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>FIRMSTONE STREET</b> <b>£425 pcm</b> First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished EPC-D	<b>DUDLEY</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>DIBDALE STREET</b> <b>£575 pcm</b> End Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Loft Room, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished EPC-E
<b>GREAT BRIDGE</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>EAGLE PLACE</b> <b>£370 pcm</b> Modern Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking EPC-D	<b>UPPER GORNAL</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>VICARAGE ROAD</b> <b>£550 pcm</b> Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished EPC-D	<b>BRIERLEY HILL</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>DADFORD VIEW</b> <b>£450 pcm</b> Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating EPC-F	<b>BROCKMOOR</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>STATION ROAD</b> <b>£495 pcm</b> Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking
<b>KINGSWINFORD</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>BARNETT LANE</b> <b>£450 pcm</b> Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, No DSS, No Pets	<b>WOLLESCOTE</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>OAKFIELD ROAD</b> <b>£695 pcm</b> Large End Terrace, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking.	<b>PENSNETT</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>BRADLEY STREET</b> <b>£495 pcm</b> Spacious First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking. Unfurnished, Available immediately	<b>WORDSLEY</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>CHAPEL STREET</b> <b>£450 pcm</b> Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Available End June
<b>WORDSLEY</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>INGATESTONE DRIVE</b> <b>£510 pcm</b> Purpose Built Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking	<b>GORNAL</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>TEMPLE STREET</b> <b>£525 pcm</b> Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Unfurnished	<b>LYE</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>SUMMER STREET</b> <b>£495 pcm</b> Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Part furnished. Rear gardens, Off Road Parking. DSS Considered. No Pets.	<b>OLDBURY</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>THE MOORINGS</b> <b>£425 pcm</b> Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, UNFURNISHED
<b>DUDLEY</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>DONNINGTON COURT</b> <b>£550 pcm</b> Purpose Built Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking	<b>KINVER</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>SPRING CLOSE</b> <b>£475 pcm</b> Apartment, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished	<b>QUINTON</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>MAYSWOOD GROVE</b> <b>£625 pcm</b> Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage	<b>WORDSLEY</b> <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>  <b>LAWNWOOD ROAD</b> <b>£610 pcm</b> Terraced Cottage, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Two Double Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden

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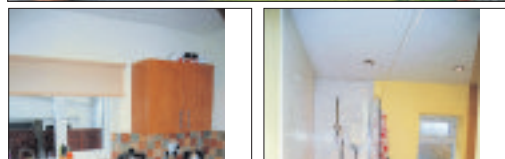
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HIGH STREET WOLLASTON

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£580.00PCM

HUNGARY HILL STOURBRIDGE



A three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Porch, Lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, garage and driveway affording off road parking.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£575PCM

LYNDHURST DRIVE WORDSLEY



A well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed rear garden and off road parking to the fore. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM



BIRCHWOOD WALK KINGSWINFORD

A spacious and well maintained, modern semi detached two bedroom bungalow situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, Kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, and to the rear of the property there is an attractive rear garden and garage. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

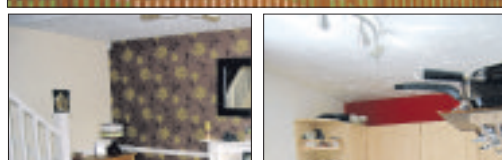
£525PCM

CHAPEL STREET LYE



A spacious three bedroom link detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, electric heating, enclosed rear garden with patio area and blocked paved driveway to the fore affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£500PCM



FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A Superb two bedroom Modern End Terrace in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, galley style kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed front garden and allocated parking with additional visitors bays.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£500PCM

HIGH STREET HARBOURNE



A Spacious two bedroom first floor flat situated in a busy High Street location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen area, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, decked rear terrace and rear access with staircase to first floor. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM

TIMES SQUARE MERRY HILL



An extremely well presented unfurnished one bedroom apartment situated in the heart of the Merry Hill Centre close to all amenities. Accommodation comprises of Video entry system, entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and double glazing and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM

SURREY DRIVE KINGSWINFORD



A very well presented two bedroom townhouse situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation to comprise of lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£475PCM

REDHOLME COURT REDHILL



An Unfurnished two bedroom first floor apartment located within walking distance of Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation to comprise of: Entrance door with security code, private entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen with cooker, bathroom, two bedrooms and ample storage cupboards. The property further benefits from night storage heating, communal gardens and single garage. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£475PCM



SCOTT STREET GREAT BRIDGE

A Second Floor One bedroom Apartment in a popular modern development. Accommodation comprises Lounge, Kitchen with oven and hob, Bedroom and Bathroom with over bath shower. The Property further benefits from Double Glazing, Electric Heating and Allocated Parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = C CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No DSS: No

£425PCM

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL



An extremely well presented two bedroom modern mid terraced property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from majority double glazing and allocated parking for two cars. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM

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A purpose built one bedroom ground floor apartment. The accommodation comprises: Lounge, kitchen, Utility room, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having storage cupboards, gas fired central heating, off road parking and communal gardens. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM

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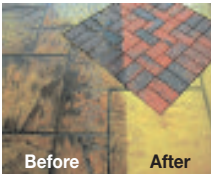
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Black and white short haired  
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Call 01902 822833 or  
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**KIRBY G4** Vacuum cleaner complete  
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£110 ono. 01902 689244.

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**A ABSOLUTE** cash price paid for  
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Also tile effect box profile  
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**EVERLAST** MOTORISED Tread-  
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Aluminium extension Ladder  
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doors, 225cms x 88cms, £100.  
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TALBOTS SOLICITORS LLP  
63 Market Street Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1AQ 7367908

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For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 731346 or email m.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

## property

accommodation to let

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It is an offence under the Defamation Act 1952, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

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HALESOWEN. 2-bed property, GCH, available immediately, no DSS. £395pcm. 07568 322995

HOUSE to let, Priory Crescent, 3 bed, CH, DG, front and back gardens. 07424 504808

ONE AND THREE BED FLATS. Tipton, DSS considered. 07961 301577/07906 878175

ROSEVILLE. COSELEY. Lovely large 1-bed flat, secure parking. £370pcm. 07976 671074

STUDIO FLAT, BILSTON £100pw. Bills included. Parking. Deposit required 07944 925591

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TWO BED FLAT, Northwood Park, newly decorated, deposit and refs required. £450pcm. No DSS. 07730 889962

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seen. No chain £179,995 on. 07837 754341.

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**PROPERTY WANTED** any condition. Long term let. Guaranteed above market rent paid for right property. Call Sarah on 0121 526 8410

**houses for sale**  
MADELEY, TELFORD  
2 Bed fully refurbished home for sale in Madeley, new kitchen, new flooring, new CH and boiler, DG and redecorated throughout, enclosed rear garden and car port. Property valued at £120,000 but offered at £109,950 for quick sale.  
Call Kim now for a viewing on 07725 811115

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MOBILE HOME  
One bed, Coven Heath. Fitted kitchen, fitted wardrobes, immaculately decorated. Own drive, private garden, over 50's, no dogs. Must see.  
£50,000 one  
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**TINDENE VILLA PARK HOME**  
3-bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, plus utility room, separate dining, large lounge, CH, DG.  
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**EXCELLENT CONDITION 2 Bed**  
Caravan sleeps 6, 12ft wide, £12k including 2013 fees. Quick sale needed. Call 07778672252

**FOR A QUICK SALE**  
STATIC CARAVAN  
30 x 10, 2 bedrooms, sleeps 6, winterised, DG with gas fire, Ditton Mill Holiday Park, Cleobury Mortimer, open 11 months of the year. Only used 9 months from new. Seller will pay changeover fee.  
Bargain £9,500.  
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**markets**

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IN THE MIDLANDS  
Bescot Stadium, Walsall FC  
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6  
07889 975701 All hard standing  
Stall Hire Available From £21

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This and every Saturday, 10am.  
A&A, Hilton, between Wolverhampton & Bridgforth, WV15 5NR  
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Details: 07890 267041  
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Caravan on 4 star Holiday Park.  
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**THE FAMOUS BILSTON SUNDAY MARKET & CAR BOOT**  
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OVER 150 SHELTERED STALLS  
£15 for 1 / £20 for 2  
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If an advert has a text to it then you can reply by text! Send **WOL** followed by the box no. of the advertisement plus your message and send to **0800 121 4230** (150p per message sent)

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**GRACE** Jones looking like black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

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**CLARE** 38, single mum, curly hair glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

**PAULA** 37, WLTm male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503

**MICHELLE** 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349

**CAROLINE** attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR. 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

**NATASHA** single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

**TRISH** tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves life. WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579

**CARING** lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

**ANGELA** green eyed dark ment on. We reserve the right to correct any errors walking and keeping, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399633

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# MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS CHRONICLE MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

# A must for bargain hunters



Dacia's Sandero Stepway is certainly turning heads

**DESPITE** being a brand defined by the affordability of its cars, Dacia understands the need for models that give the people what they want. The Sandero Stepway is one of those.

Based on the Sandero hatchback, the Stepway is more of a crossover-type car, riding higher and with a handful of off-roader styling cues to give a more rugged look.

Sales in this sector of the market have been ballooning for the last few years and Dacia would be daft not to get in on the act.

The sub-range is almost identical to that of the Sandero hatch. It's in the company's interests to share parts, platforms and equipment as much as possible, allowing a cheaper price to then be passed on to the consumer.

There are turbocharged 0.9-litre petrol and 1.5-litre diesel engine options with two trim levels, so the Stepway does without the entry-level engine and trim options you can get in the ordinary Sandero. Tested here is the Stepway Laureate 1.5 dCi; the priciest Sandero variant you can buy at a likely £10,795 or so when order books open in the spring.

For around £1,000 less, you can have the gutsy and frugal 898cc turbocharged petrol TCe, which makes it the soundest financial bet for most

buyers. Either way, Dacia predicts a lot of people will go for Laureate spec for its massive value for money.

As well as the 40mm ride height increase over the common-or-garden Sandero which improves accessibility and gives a better view of the road ahead, buyers get smart-looking roof rails, an in-built colour satnav system, cruise control, a speed limiter and reverse-parking sensors. Not the sort of things you normally expect on a sub-£11,000 runabout, but all of them very welcome.

## Impressive

The 89bhp diesel engine is equally impressive on the value front. Based on the cheaper of the two Renault-Nissan alliance small-capacity units (there's also a 1.6 in the group), it produces ample power and only 105g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>, which although not hitting the tax-free heights of some of its costlier Renault cousins is still very impressive – and very cheap to run.

One of the parts shared between all Sandero models including the Stepway is the rev counter, which has no red zone and extends past 7,000rpm. The diesel can't reach those engine speeds but pulls well between 1,900rpm and 3,500rpm.

The weight difference between the diesel and the petrol is about 60kg, and all of it rests over the front wheels. The Stepway, with its taller stance, is especially susceptible to the negative effects this

has on the way the car drives, feeling just a little more ponderous around corners and marginally firmer at the front end. A stiffer suspension set-up has been used to account for the extra weight.

But for general biffing around town or country, the diesel Stepway is a thoroughly amiable little partner, happily negotiating steep hills and displaying fine cruising credentials. The only issue is louder-than-average wind noise around the front screen and A-pillars.

Its five-speed gearbox is a bit notchy when locating a new cog and if you place your hand on it, the gear lever can feel wobbly. It's not too noticeable during normal gearshifts though.

A highlight among the practical benefits that the Stepway can claim over the standard Sandero has to be the unpainted plastic trim around the wheel arches, side skirts and bumpers. It helps prevent certain kinds of car park knocks and scrapes from damaging paintwork and offers a cheaper repair solution. Otherwise the car shares the surprisingly spacious boot and ample rear legroom of the Sandero.

Although Dacia has taken an ear-bashing from Euro NCAP over the safety scores its cars are getting, the safety bods are getting a little overzealous with their latest requests for five-star cars – and in isolation the UK-spec Sandero Stepway would get a sound four.

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## CHRONICLE MOTORING Powered by motors.co.uk



An update for 2013 - the newly styled BMW Z4 features Valencia Orange paintwork

# More goodies promised in new sporty BMW Z4

**A NEW BMW Z4 is on the way with new styling, more equipment and a new entry-level model, the Munich-based company has confirmed.**

A mid-life update sees mildly revised lines mix with a familiar set of engines and trim levels, apart from a new sDrive18i model, which uses a detuned version of the 2.0-litre four-cylinder turbocharged unit in the sDrive20i, and in SE trim it loses the 20i's leather seats.

At present the 20i, which has until now been the range's entry point,

accounts for 80 per cent of the model's sales and BMW is hoping to expand sales with a more accessible option.

High-performance Z4s start with the four-cylinder turbocharged sDrive28i, with the six-cylinder turbo-augmented sDrive35i and 35is as the standard bearers. All three are limited to 155mph, with 242bhp, 302bhp and 335bhp respectively.

SE and M Sport are maintained as the available trim options, but a new and more visually striking option has been added.

The Pure Traction Design package can be ordered on any Z4 and brings with it Valencia Orange paint, an

optional gloss black roof, leather and Alcantara sports seats with contrasting stitching and darker 'metal weave' interior trim.

Standard equipment across all models now includes DAB radio, xenon headlights, Bluetooth, USB connectivity and a multi-function steering wheel. Only the sDrive18i SE does without 'Kansas' leather upholstery as standard.

The Z4 will go on sale in March, with on-the-road prices starting at £27,610 and rising to £45,795. The Pure Traction Package will cost between £550 and £2,240 depending on which model it is added to.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 119g/km. Chevrolet Aveo Range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban 55.3 (5.1) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 78.4 (3.6), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 147 - 95g/km.



Healthy set of numbers sign up for the big run



ENTRIES are coming in now for the Action Heart five-mile run on Sunday, February 24 (9.30am).

If you have yet to start training, it's still not too late. The programme is flexible and you can accommodate a missed day by adding a couple of minutes to the other days and swapping the rest day to suit your individual situation.

Newcomers to running should remember to warm up before each session and warm down afterwards. It is helpful to stretch your leg muscles prior to running and brisk walking or jogging on the spot for five to 10 minutes is an effective way of preparing the body.

If you have decided to have a go, why not encourage others by letting them know how you are getting on? Call Joy Brown at Action Heart on 01384 292233 or email [running@action-heart.com](mailto:running@action-heart.com)

Do your running on well-lit roads and, if possible, with a friend.

Download an entry form for the event, which starts and finishes at Russells Hall Hospital, at [www.action-heartrunning.com](http://www.action-heartrunning.com) and receive your race pack.

You can also enter online by going to [www.runner-world.co.uk](http://www.runner-world.co.uk)

**Training: Week Three**  
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Perfect nine for winner Jeremy

CHESS player Jeremy Fallofield produced a perfect nine from nine score to win Stourbridge Chess Club's New Year blitz tournament.

He was unperturbed by a fast time control of seven minutes per player, per game. Second place went to newcomer Nick Arkell with eight points while Greg Dyett was third on six.

Anyone interested in playing for Stourbridge, or who would just like to improve their game, can call Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit [www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk)

# Jordan hat-trick helps secure cup victory

**Kewford Eagles U11 West 2**  
**Stourbridge Juniors U11 5**  
 STOURBRIDGE came from a goal down to win this cup tie as Jordan Edwards' hat-trick moved his season's tally to 20.

There were also goals for James Thompson and Jack Wright. Stourbridge host Withymoor Colts West in the quarter-final.

**Sky Blue Hawks U12 1**  
**Stourbridge U12A 2**  
 Stourbridge held on after leading 2-0 through goals from Dylan Multani and Rohan Brown.

**Wolverhampton Casuals U13 1**  
**Stourbridge U13A 2**  
 Stourbridge were made to fight

hard despite leading 2-0. They took control and were soon in front after a fine cross and finish by Harry Franey.

Franey then took a flick from Ewan Hunter, rounded the keeper and finished from a tight angle.

It was one-way traffic until Casuals netted from 25 yards in the dying moments of the first half. Stour defended for long periods in the second half, but held out to take the points.

**Stourbridge U14A 2 Bewdley U14 0**  
 Neat passing helped Stourbridge take a 2-0 first-half lead which ultimately proved decisive. In the second period they began

## Stourbridge Juniors

to run with the ball, ignoring the simple pass, and the game became scrappy.

Bewdley looked to play on the break, but the home team's back three were in the ascendancy.

Jonny Hooper put in some good crosses and Tyler Andrews' link play created opportunities.

Stourbridge went ahead after 20 minutes when a well-struck centre by Owen Taylor was half-cleared and delivered back into the box to be prodded home by Ethan Shelley. Fred Watts and Jake Bram both

went close before Stourbridge struck again five minutes before the interval.

Good interplay between Watts and Sam Cinnamon ended with the latter netting from 25 yards.

Shelley went close in the second half with a header which was well-saved.

**Stourbridge U15A 4**  
**Coton Green U15 1**

After a slow start, Stour put together their best performance of the season with a convincing win over Tamworth-based Coton.

Goals came from Darragh Bustin (2), Lucas Muckley and Sam Banner.

**Stourbridge U16A 2**  
**Wolverhampton Casuals U16 2**

Stourbridge battled back from two goals down to grab a well-earned point.

Stour were poor in the first half and lucky not to be more than 1-0 down at the break.

They conceded again, but Calvin Campbell halved the deficit to set up a late comeback which was completed on the final whistle when Matt Booth finished well after a period of sustained pressure.

**Other results:** Phoenix U15 2 Stourbridge U15B 4, Boldmere Falcons U15 Girls 1 Stourbridge U15 Girls 3, Kinvor Colts U16 3 Stourbridge U16B 7, Stourbridge U17 0 Withymoor U17 4.

Gornal all set for biggest date yet

MIDLAND ALLIANCE side Gornal Athletic are preparing for the biggest game in their history on Saturday.

They have already rewritten the club record books by reaching the fourth round of the FA Vase – but a win at home over Wisbech Town would put them in the last 16 and just three games from Wembley.

Gornal's previous best Vase run saw them reach the third round.

Prize money from the Vase has already earned Gornal £4,800 this season, but victory against Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division Wisbech would net them an extra £2,000.

Gornal manager Ian Rowe said he is proud of the team and doesn't think there can be many non-budget teams left in the competition.

Rowe hopes to draw at least two or three times' Gornal's normal attendance of 80 to 100 at the Garden Walk Stadium, especially with Wolves playing away and Albion kicking off late.

Coaches and cars are also travelling down from Wisbech, a club which normally pulls in about 250 fans for home games.

But the literal cloud over the match concerns preparation – bad weather has hampered Rowe's planning and his side have played just three games in the last six weeks.

Rowe has studied Gornal's opponents on YouTube, is grateful for the home advantage but also wary because four of his players are cup-tied.

Team and staff have been promised half of the season's winnings.

"It will be great for the club," he said.

Jones says No to speedway

STOURBRIDGE speedway hopeful Emerson Jones has hung up his kevlars before his career has even started.

The 18-year-old motocross convert caught the eye in practice and amateur meetings on the shale and landed himself a 2013 contract with Stoke.

The Potters were looking to put him straight into their National League side.

But they must now look again after Jones decided to concentrate on motocross, despite the purchase of a speedway bike from Elite League star Linus Sundstrom.

**Stockport 5 Stourbridge Saxons 45**  
**THE SAXONS** shot through the 100-try mark for the season with a big National League Two North win at the Memorial Ground.

Fittingly it was man of the match Nigel Mukarati who crossed for the team's 100th try of the campaign.

The scoreline offered scant consolation to the hosts who enjoyed near parity in territory and possession but were unable to match the Saxons' physicality and finishing.

Saxons retained a 19-point cushion over the nearest league challengers and extended their run to 18 bonus point victories.

Centre Ben Barkley barged over in the fifth minute, after a return pass from winger Nathan Bressington who broke down the right after a long cutout pass by fullback Caolan Ryan.

Stockport pressed but a Robbie Hurrell line-out steal ended as second row Rich Stott put centre Gary Dipple into space.

## Reached

Though grounded short, he reached out to get the second try.

Ten minutes later, No. 8 Mukarati scored at the back of a Saxons short-range driving maul after another Hurrell line-out take.

Turning round 19-0 ahead, Saxons took advantage of the slope as captain Ben Hughes' support work was rewarded with a short-range scoring pass after Barkley's direct run drove a big hole in the defences.

Replacement scrum-half Lucas Roy-Smith got his first try of the season, steal-

## Stourbridge Saxons

ing scrum ball and taking a return pass from fly-half Sione Tu'ipolotu who was tackled just short of the line.

Stockport's winger punished an unusually poor kick chase, darting through the defensive line to score an unconverted try.

Replacement full-back Tom Jarvis celebrated his return from a two-month injury lay-off by injecting pace into the wide channels, putting Bressington in for a brace of tries.

Saxons' coach Mike Umaga said: "Looking at the league table you have to say that Stockport's basement position is no reflection of their skill and performance levels, they played a positive game of rugby that gave our defence a thorough workout – just one lapse and they were in for a try."

"My man of the match was Nigel Mukarati, who worked selflessly and immensely hard in defence. Gary Dipple also put in a very good performance."



Stourbridge's Robbie Hurrell offloads to Nigel Mukarati, who scored the Saxons' 100th try of the current season



Nigel Brassington looks to check back inside a defender



Ben Barkley drives forward with Gary Dipple in support

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# SPORT

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**In the pink**  
Saxons score 100th  
try of the season  
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**Hot shot**  
Edwards treble gives  
Juniors a big boost  
**Page 35**

e-mail: [chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk)

## Season's best with Matt first to finish

STOURBRIDGE Running Club had a fine result in the Birmingham and District invitation cross-country league.

Their first finisher, Matt Giles, came sixth overall at Droitwich in a time of 43min 12sec.

With Duncan Cornish clocking 45:40 and Andy Aston 47:01, the men's team finished equal third in Group A – their best result of the season.

The ladies team ran at Sandwell Valley Country Park, West Bromwich, in the Midlands women's league.

They finished 29th in a tough, muddy 6km race and 18th in the Masters section.

Their first runner home was Joan Clarke, in 31:18, with Zoe Yeomans clocking 35:49 and Natalie Dellar third in 36:04.

Entries are still being taken for the annual Stourbridge Stagger, a 10-mile multi-terrain run on February 3. Ladies have the option of running the shorter 7km event. Both start from Mary Stevens park at 10.30am. The race limit is 450. For further details and a printable entry form, visit [www.srlub.co.uk](http://www.srlub.co.uk)

## Bobby set to dazzle at darts night

DARTS legend Bobby George is heading to Stourbridge for an exhibition.

He will be on the oche at Stourbridge FC on Sunday, February 24.

'The King of Bling', one of the most popular personalities in the game's history, will entertain in the Glassboys Bar. He will play against local players, members of the audience and share stories of his life in the darts world.

George is now a television pundit for the sport and helped with the analysis of the BDO's world championship earlier this month.

He is widely regarded as one of the most colourful and extrovert characters in darts and was perhaps the first to add showbusiness and glamour to the sport.

His son Richie reached this year's BDO semi-finals.

Doors open at 2.30pm with the event getting under way an hour later. Tickets cost £15; call Jonathan Martin on 07971 979261 or email [mmsports@group.aol.com](mailto:mmsports@group.aol.com)

## Sean the sub breaks deadlock from the spot

A CONTENTIOUS second-half penalty converted by Sean Geddes two minutes after coming on as a substitute gave the Glassboys a narrow victory over relegation-threatened Kettering Town.

The Northamptonshire side were forced into a late change when goalkeeper Yannick Nlate suffered an injury in the warm-up and deputy Ashley Talbot took his place.

Stourbridge started the Evo-Stik Southern Premier fixture brightly and went on to enjoy the upper hand for much of the first period without working the replacement keeper as much as they would have hoped.

The visitors had a chance in the fourth

### Kettering 0 Stourbridge 1

minute when Drew Canavan fed Gavin Hurren. His deep cross was met by Luke Benbow at the far post, but he directed his header wide of Talbot's left-hand upright.

Two minutes later Canavan sent over a cross from the right and this time the header from James McFike – in the side in place of the ill Ben Billingham – did not have enough power and Talbot made a comfortable save.

As the Glassboys continued to press, Jordan Fitzpatrick dispossessed Chris Logan in the middle of the park and he looked to play in Sean Evans on the left-

hand side of the box. However, his pass was a little too heavy and although Evans managed to get an angled shot away, Talbot was able to save at his near post.

Stourbridge threatened again on 22 minutes when Leon Broadhurst played the ball through the left channel to Benbow and his neat back-heel enabled Evans to hit a 20-yard drive that flew over.

Kettering's Joel Gyasi managed to get to the right-hand byline and from his low centre, Hurren scooped the ball over his own crossbar at the expense of a corner.

Three minutes before the interval Stourbridge had an opportunity to take the lead as

a testing corner from Canavan was weakly punched away by Talbot under pressure on his goal-line and McCone turned a shot goalwards that was blocked by Henry Eze.

Kettering came more into the game after the restart and in the space of a minute Ben Ford and Eze spurned chances to score.

Geddes replaced Canavan and almost immediately the Glassboys' regular penalty taker broke the deadlock from the spot after winger Troy Johnston appeared to have a tug of his shirt before he went down and the referee awarded a penalty.

Nathan Bennett and Broadhurst both had chances to double the advantage late on.

## Classy visitors' lesson in scoring

### Causeway United 0 Loughborough University 3

ANDY MOLE'S first game in charge at Midland Alliance side Causeway ended in defeat against a classy Loughborough University side who scored all their goals in a one-sided first half.

The visitors' top scorer Daniel Nti caused all sorts of problems for Causeway from the start.

And when Carl Martin gave away a free-kick on the edge of the box, Nti bypassed the defensive wall to score.

On 15 minutes, Nti crossed and Martin's day went from bad to worse as he headed past his own goalkeeper Tom Turner to make it 2-0.

Nti again made the running on 35 minutes when he set up Jordan Barker, whose weak flick shot was easily saved by Turner.

But Nti almost made it three a minute before the break.

He cut in from the left and beat two defenders before shooting across the goal-line, the ball going narrowly wide of the far post.

But the third goal did come right on the break and, perhaps inevitably, Nti was the scorer.

Loughborough produced some lovely inter-passing down the right, which culminated in Sam Cook sending over a high cross and Nti producing a downward header into the net.

The second half saw Causeway try to come more into the game, but their only chance came five minutes from time when Scott Devlin shot wide.

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# SAM IN THE PICTURE FOR PRIZEFIGHTER

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington will make history in the next Prizefighter at Wolverhampton Civic Hall after making a late dash into the starting line-up.

Birmingham's Nasser Al Harbi has been scrubbed from the list of competitors after failing to return home in time from his honeymoon for the pre-fight picture shoot.

So Eggington has been called up from reserve into the eight-man, one-night, three-rounds-a-fight tournament on Saturday night, live on Sky Sports.

Prizefighter returns to the Civic with a third instalment at welterweight after a sold-out debut last February, won by Adil Anwar at light-welterweight.

Eggington will be the youngest to compete in the tournament as he makes the short journey to take part.

The 19-year-old eclipses Patrick Mendy by exactly six months – and he won Prizefighter at super-middleweight that night on June 30, 2010.

'Sam the Man' has only three points victories on his professional record since turning over last year, but enjoyed national success as an amateur.

### Semi-finals

Boxing for Warley ABC, he won Clubs for Young People and ABA Novice national titles. Eggington also reached the semi-finals of the junior ABA tournament.

Those successes came over the three, three-minute rounds distance that he will tackle again.

So it's no surprise that Eggington thinks unpaid fighters develop into the best Prizefighters.

He said: "Everyone asks me why I turned over so young, but I always wanted to turn professional."

"I am a late reserve, I have nothing to use."

### by Craig Birch

"I feel like I can adapt well to different people, I do well against short stocky boxers and I do well against long-range people."

"I will be very excited on the night, purely because it is Prizefighter."

"I am always being praised for my workrate and what I do in the ring."

Despite the 'star overnight' status Prizefighter can provide, Eggington believes there's still work to do on his career even if he were to win.

He said: "On top of the money and where winning Prizefighter can land you, being the youngest winner would be a prize in itself."

"It would boost my career but it wouldn't do what it could do for some of the others, who could get a bigger title."

"It couldn't do that for me, I would still have to do a few more fights."

"I got made redundant before Christmas, so I need to stay as active as possible."

Eggington will be joined by fellow Stourbridge boxer Steven Pearce as well as Calum Cooper, Glenn Foot, Dale Evans, Chad Gaynor, Rob Hunt and Mark Thompson.



Boxer Sam Eggington celebrates his Prizefighter call-up. Picture: Lawrence Lustig

## Welborn is at his fittest for title bout

ROWLEY REGIS' Jason Welborn has whipped himself into "the shape of his life" for his British title fight at Walsall Town Hall tomorrow night.

The challenger to Frankie Gavin's welterweight crown has put in 12 weeks of dedicated preparation in what has been his hardest training camp yet.

The 26-year-old may have to put it all on the line against Britain's only world amateur title winner, a vastly talented south-paw from Birmingham.

Welborn put the finishing touches to his preparations at Amphin ABC in the town hall this week alongside Walsall duo Martin Gethin and Christopher Keane.

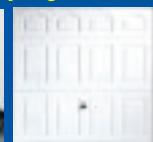
Gethin boxes for the British and Commonwealth lightweight belts on the bill, while Keane has a shot at the Midlands cruiserweight titles.

And Welborn is aiming to do his bit to make it a hat-trick of home wins on the show, to be broadcast live on BoxNation.

He said: "Training has gone really well, I have got my diet spot-on and I'm feeling really fit."

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